THE WELSH COUNTY SERIES

CARNARVONSHIRE

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THE STORY OF CARNARVONSHIRE

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Llandegwning
TREMADOC BAY
HARLECH
MERIONETH
Rhiw
Abersoch
Aberdaron
Llangian
Braich-y-pwll
Bardsey Sound
Forth Nigel
St Tudwals Islands
Pencilan Hd
Ynys Enlli or Bardsey

The Welsh County Series.

THE STORY OF CARNARVONSHIRE

BY

C. J. EVANS,

Author of "The Story of Glamorgan," etc.

PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED.

1910

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PREFACE.

THIS little book has been revised from an essay which won the first prize at the Llangollen Royal National Eisteddfod in 1908. It is hoped that the boys and girls of Carnarvonshire, for whom it is primarily intended, will find in it much that will interest them, and that will deepen in them a sincere love for their native county, whose natural beauties and stirring history equal, if they do not excel, those of any other county in Wales

The Author here begs to acknowledge his great indebtedness to previous writers on Carnarvonshire, and to the gentlemen who so kindly and readily read the proofs of the book, thereby ensuring greater accuracy than would otherwise be the case.

CARDIFF,

October, 1910.

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The Story of Carnarvonshire.

CHAPTER I.

Position, Surface, Name, Extent.

CARNARVONSHIRE is a maritime county of North Wales, and is the most westerly of the three counties that lie on the northern edge of the mainland. It is bounded on the south-east and east by the counties of Merionethshire and Denbighshire; to the south are Merionethshire and the waters of Cardigan Bay; and to the north-west are the Irish Sea, Carnarvon Bay, and the Menai Straits. The Menai Straits separates it from the island county of Anglesey.

The county is mountainous, its peaks ranking among the highest in the kingdom. Snowdon, its chief peak, is the highest mountain in England and Wales, its summit being 3,570 feet above the level of the sea. Though the characteristic feature of the surface is its ruggedness, there are many fertile valleys and low-lying strips of land. The surface of the Peninsula of Lleyn in particular is generally flat and much like the surface of the county of Anglesey, though there are many isolated hills which, from a distance, seem like a series of islands.

The mountains commence at the promontory of Great Orme's Head, and stretch, almost in the direction of the greatest length of the county, to the sea at Traeth Mawr. This range, though broken up into several distinct groups, is

The Great Orme and Happy Valley.

about twenty-six miles long and about eighteen miles broad. Beyond the right bank of the River Dwyfach it is continued in a second range, eighteen miles long, and about four miles broad in its widest part, which extends to the end of Lleyn. Between the mountains and the sea the county has a fairly level and fertile strip of land, and on this coastal plain are found the most important towns and villages of the county.

The mountain ranges form the backbone of Carnarvonshire, just as the Pennine Chain forms the backbone of England. They are the main watersheds of the county, and from them the rivers and brooks run in a northerly or southerly direction to the sea. This shows us that from the mountainous backbone, the county has a general slope to the north and the south, with a slight trend in places to the west.

In olden days there was no division of land known as Carnarvonshire. The whole of Wales was then divided into kingdoms, or principalities, one of which was Gwynedd, or North Wales. One part of Gwynedd was named Arfon, and when Edward I. made portions of Wales into Shire ground in 1284, the county of Carnarvonshire was formed from the district known as Arfon, with the exception of the commote of Ardudwy, which was made a part of the neighbouring county of Merionethshire. The new shire took its name from the principal town within its borders, the town of Carnarvon.

The greatest length of the county is from north-east to south-west, that is from Creuddyn, through Snowdon, to Braich-y-pwll. In this direction it stretches for about fifty-five miles. Its breadth, however, varies from about five miles, in the narrowest parts, to about twenty miles, in the widest. It has a circumference of about 150 miles, and its surface has an area of 361,156 statute acres, or nearly 565 square miles.

Caniad y Gôg i Arfon.

I.

PERFFAITH yw Dy waith, Duw Iôr,
Mae tir a môr yn dystion;
Da a didwyll gwnaed hwy oll,
Heb goll na dim diffygion;
Ond o'r cyfan goreu gwnaed
Goreuwlad wirfod Arfon.

II.

P'le mae cynnar ganiad côg
Mewn glaswedd deiliog glwysion,
Dyfnion neint, a chreigiau serth,
A phrydferth reïeidr-mawrion?
Ar Eryri uchel wawr,
Yn enfawr lànnau Arfon.

III.

Defaid filoedd sy'n porfau
Ar hyd ei bryniau meithion,
Ei gweunydd heirdd, a'i bronydd têg,
Sy'n llawn o wartheg düon;
Da yw'r pysgod sydd yn gwau
Yn nyfnion lynnau Arfon.

IV.

Clywir adlais bêr ddibaid
Y clau fugeiliaid gwiwlon,
A'u chwibaniad hyd y dydd,
Ar hyd ei gelltydd gwylltion,
A diniwaid frefiad wyn
Ar irfwyn fryniau Arfon.

V.

Clywir miwsig bwysig, bêr,
Trwy fwynder twrf y wendòn;
Nos a dydd y sydd a'i sî,
Yn golchi'i glannau gleinion;
O! na chawn ni rodio o hyd
Hyd fôrfin hyfryd Arfon.

* * * * * * *

VI.

Duw a'm dycco cyn fy medd,
I fyw mewn hêdd a digon,
A chael treulio'm gweddill oes
Heb loesau anfelusion;
Hyn yw'm harch, a Duw yn Dad
Yn mynwes wirfod Arfon.

VII.

A phan y delo diwedd oes,
A du loes angau creulon,
A d'od o'r dydd i'm rhoddi'n fûd
Yn nistaw fyd marwolion,
Boed i'm corph gael bedd yn nghlai
A daear erfai Arfon.

Ieuan Glan Geirionydd.

CHAPTER II.

The Mountains of Carnarvonshire.

THE mountains of Carnarvonshire are all included in the Snowdonian mountain system, and are divided by means of valleys and streams into the Snowdon group, which is continued beyond the western bank of the River Dwyfach by the hills of Lleyn, the Glyder group, and the Carnedds and their neighbouring summits.

The central mass of the Snowdon group is composed of a number of ridges radiating from Y Wyddfa, like the arms of an immense starfish. To the north-west runs the ridge known as Clogwyn Ddu'r Arddu, which has a length of about three miles, and comes to an end near Bettws Garmon in a mountain called Moel Eilio. Bwlch y Maen runs to the south-west for a short distance, when it divides into Y Llechog and Llech-

wedd yr Hydd. The former curves to the west and the latter runs towards Beddgelert, ending in the finely grouped peaks of Yr Aran.

Bwlch y Saethau is a deep depression in the ridge running from Y Wyddfa to the summit of Y Lliwedd, roughly, from west to east. Y Cryman, a ridge to the north-west of Llyn Llydaw, received its name, which means Reaping Hook or Sickle, because it is so sharp and pointed. Two other ridges extend from the eastern side of Y Wyddfa. One runs almost due east, and is known in one part as Crib y Distyll, and in the other as Crib Goch. The second ridge, Y Llechog, runs to the north-west, along the western side of the Pass of Llanberis. For about three miles it runs parallel with Y Glyder Fawr, until it sinks into the Vale of Dolbadarn.

The Snowdon group is continued beyond the River Gwyrfai, in Mynyddmawr, which lifts its head south-west of Moel Eilio. The range is continued beyond Mynyddmawr in two ridges. One extends to the south-west, and ends in Llwyd Mawr, with the Garnedd Goch as its highest point. The other runs south, to end on the right bank of the Glaslyn River, above Tremadoc. Its highest peak is Moel Hebog, which towers above Beddgelert. The hills of Lleyn also belong to this group, but they, with the exception of Yr Eifl, are relatively insignificant.

The Glyder group is made up of Y Glyder Fawr, y Glyder Fach, Y Garn, Y Tryfan, Yr Elidyr Fawr, each one of which is over 3,000 feet high, and other peaks and connecting ridges, lying between the valleys of the Ogwen and the Seiont. Between Yr Elidyr Fawr and Carnedd Dafydd lies Nant Ffrancon, a vale that is " an amphitheatre of steep and rugged mountains, scarred by torrents and broken by jagged, splintered rocks, with a feebly-cultivated strath at their base," through which the Ogwen flows.

Trifaen Mountains.

The western side of this group slopes abruptly into the valley of the Seiont. Here the mountains have been pierced in many places by the huge slate quarries that have been dug into their sides. In the valley below is Llanberis, with the twin lakes—Padarn and Peris—nestling snugly in the shadow of the huge heights towering above.

Y Glyder Fawr is the highest and most rugged peak in the whole group. Its summit is a long flat space, which, at its northern and eastern sides, descends in precipices down to the base of the mountain. "The plain which forms the top is strangely covered with loose stones like the beach of the sea. . . . Numerous groups of stones are placed almost erect, sharp pointed, and in sheaves : all are weather-beaten, time-eaten, and honey-combed, and of a venerable grey colour."

Y Waun Oer connects y Glyder Fach to Y Glyder Fawr. Y Glyder Fach is only seventeen feet lower than Y Glyder Fawr, and has the reputation of being the roughest mountain in the kingdom. An extension, Carnedd y Gwynt, a conical peak, towers above Capel Curig.

Y Tryfan is a huge mountain, with very peaked and broken sides. Its name was given it, as some people say, because of some fancied form of its summit. Others say that at one time three rocks, some fifteen feet high, stood on the summit, and that these gave the mountain its name. Two of these rocks remain. They look from a distance like human figures, and stories are told of strangers who have waited to see these two "people," known locally as "Jack and Jill," "Sion a Sian," and "Adam and Eve," change their positions."

The Carnedds and their extensions lie between the basins of the Ogwen and the Conwy. The highest peaks in the group are Carnedd Dafydd and Carnedd Llewelyn, "twin peaks inferior in height to Snowdon alone among Welsh mountains." Pennant wrote that from Carnedd

Llewelyn, "The view is amazingly great. At some distance are Y Wyddfa, and its neighbouring alps. The Glyders, Tryfan, and Carnedd y Filiast, or Rock of the Bitch Greyhound, appear immediately beneath. The front of the last is an even slope of rock, smooth and uniform; and so slippery, that if the fox, in extreme danger, takes over it in wet weather, it falls down and perishes. . . . Carnedd Dafydd, the companion summit, is connected to Carnedd Llewelyn by a semi-lunar isthmus, which, on the side above Cwm Penllafar, is called Ysgolion Duon, or the Black Ladders; and forms the most horrid precipice that thought can conceive." Penmaenmawr, a very bold headland, which ends in a vast naked rock, second only to the rock faces of the Carnedds, juts prominently into the sea and forms a part of this group.

The group is continued beyond the valley of the Llugwy, in Moel Siabod, whence a range runs in a circular direction to the borders of Merionethshire, above Festiniog. Moel Siabod, with the exception of a small rock face on the southern side, is covered with verdure to the very top. From the main range several ridges run off to the south-east and south-west, and a further group of low hills occupies the south-eastern corner of the county in the neighbourhood of Penmachno.

CHAPTER III.

Y Wyddfa.

"Nos dywyll yn distewi—y caddug
Yn cuddio'r Eryri;
Yr haul yng ngwely'r heli
A'r lloer yn arianu'r lli." (*Gwallter Mechain*).

SNOWDON—Y Wyddfa, or Yr Eryri—is the highest mountain in England and Wales, and is also one of the sublimest and most romantic. Its associations with the struggles of the Welsh Princes to maintain their independence, and the shelter which the mountain and its numerous spurs afforded to our ancestors when seeking refuge from invaders, conjure up feelings of love and reference for it in the hearts of all true sons of Wales. It has formed the theme of story, of poem and of song, and to-day it forms one of the objects of pilgrimage of those who delight in the majestic beauty of true mountain scenery.

The ascent of Y Wyddfa has had a fascination for mountaineers for generations, and many are the hardships that climbers have undergone in order to see the sun rise from the summit. Nowadays it is possible to dispense with discomfort and to make the ascent at ease, seated comfortably in one of the carriages of the mountain railway that climbs the mountain from Llanberis. All the wonderful scenery of the neighbourhood unfolds itself in a panorama before the traveller, who is carried right to the summit in about an hour and a half. If he has chosen a clear day for his trip a magnificent view of the surrounding country will be his reward, but even if the day be cloudy, glimpses of scenery, seen

Snowdon from Llyn Llydaw.

when the wind parts the curtain of mist below his feet, will amply repay him for his trip.

Many descriptions of the ascent of Snowdon have been written, but perhaps the most interesting is that written by the well-known author Thomas Pennant, about 1778, extracts from which are given below.

He wrote :—"The view from this high situation is unbounded; on my first visit, I saw from it the county of Chester, the high hills of Yorkshire, part of the North of England, Scotland, and Ireland; a plain view of the Isle of Man; and that of Anglesey lay spread out like a map beneath us, with every rill visible.

"I took much pains to see this view to advantage, sat up all night at a farm on the west till about twelve, and walked up the whole way. The night was remarkably fine and starry; towards morning the stars faded away and left a short interval of darkness, which was soon driven away by the dawn of day.

"The body of the sun appeared most distinct, with the roundness of the moon, before it rose high enough to render its beams too brilliant for our sight. The sea which bounded the western part, was gilded by its beams, first in slender streaks, at length glowed with redness. The view was opened up to us like the slow drawing up of a curtain in a theatre. We saw more and more, till the heat became so powerful as to attract the mists from the various lakes. These in a slight degree hid the view.

"The shadow of the mountain was flung many miles, and showed its two-headed form : the Wyddfa making one and Crib y Ddysgyl the other head. I . . counted between twenty and thirty lakes, either in this county or Merionethshire."

Mr. Pennant made a second ascent and, writing of this, remarked :—"On this day, the sun was hidden very soon

after I got up: a vast mist surrounded the whole round of the mountain. The view down was horrible: it gave an idea of a number of abysses, concealed by a thick smoke, whirling madly around us. Very often a gust of wind formed an opening in the clouds, which gave a very fine and distinct vista of lake and valley.

"Sometimes they opened only in one place, at others, in many at once, showing a most strange and perplexing sight of water, fields, rocks, or chasms in fifty different places. Then they closed and left us in darkness. In a small space they would separate again, and fly in wild eddies round the middle of the mountains, and expose in parts both tops and bottoms clear to our view.

"We descended from this varied scene with great unwillingness; but before we reached our horses, a thunderstorm overtook us. Its rolling among the mountains was awful; the rain uncommonly heavy. We remounted our horses and gained the bottom with great hazard. The little rills, which on our ascent trickled along the gullies on the sides of the mountains, were now swelled into torrents; and we and our steeds passed with the utmost risk of being swept away by these sudden waters. At length we arrived safe, but very wet and weary, to our former quarters."

Verses written on the Summit of Snowdon.

MANY are the verses that have been written on Snowdon, but few are so highly descriptive of the scene from the mountain-top as those written on the summit itself by the Welsh bard Talhaiarn. Here they are:—

I.

AR ol dringo a theithio'i thorr,
A sarnau fyrdd (nid siwrnau ferr),
Gwelais y byd i gyd o'i gwrr,
A'r ddaear gu oddiar ei gwarr.

II.

O'i serth orsedd ddaneddawg,—cei ddegau
O ddrychau ardderchawg,—
Eryri a'i goronawg, elltyd gwêl
Cribau uchel crebychawg.

III.

Ysgythrawg grogawg greigiau,—a gelltydd,
A gwylltion glogwynau,—
Awelon gwiwlon yn gwau,
Gofleidiant y grug flodau.

IV.

Llynoedd gorddyfnion, a llanau,—o'n blaen
Ysblenydd wrthrychau;
Niwl a tharth drwy'r garth yn gwau,
A miloedd o gymylau.

CHAPTER IV.

The Basin of the Conwy.

THE Conwy is the second longest river in North Wales, and throughout almost all the thirty miles of its length, it flows through beautiful scenery. It rises in Llyn Conwy in the south-eastern corner of the county, and for a short distance it flows to the south. It then turns to the north-east and flows in that direction for about seven and a half miles, when it bends to the north-west and afterwards to the north, a direction it follows for some fifteen miles to the sea. For almost the whole of its length the river forms the eastern boundary of the county. The chief industry followed in the basin of the Conwy is that of agriculture. Some of the people, however, are miners, and earn their livelihood in the slate quarries and lead mines found in the neighbourhood of the villages.

The first place of interest in the river basin is Yspytty Ivan, a village where in olden times the knights of St. John of Jerusalem had a Hospice, Hospital or Guest House. Here the knights gave food and shelter to needy travellers who passed that way. In the fourteenth century (1312 A.D.) the order was done away with in England, the knights left and their house became inhabited by a band of robbers. These became such a pest in the country that a chieftain named Meredydd ab Evan, helped by his tenants, hunted them out and drove them away.

Below Yspytty Ivan the scenery becomes more beautiful, and the river is joined by a number of streams from the heights around. The first tributary of any size from the Carnarvonshire side is the Eidda, and shortly afterwards, the Machno empties its waters into the main stream. The Machno flows through a narrow valley, and on its banks is the village of Penmachno, where there is a bridge of six arches which was built in 1785 by Henry Parry, of Carnarvon. Just before its confluence with the Conwy, the Machno leaps over a number of bold and rugged rocks forming the cataract known as Rhaiadr Graig Llwyd. Pandy Mill, which has been painted and sketched by innumerable artists, is close to the cataract, and a short distance away are the fine falls of the Conwy.

Near Penmachno was found a gravestone which had been erected to the memory of King Carausius. The words on the stone tells us : " Carausius lies here in this heap of stones." Carausius deserves remembrance, as he, acting for his Roman employers, was the first to found a British Navy. This navy was constructed to put down the pirates who infested the waters around Britain, and so successful was the fleet under the command of Carausius that the seas from the Rhine to the Straits of Gibraltar were cleared of these enemies. Carausius lived in the third century, and the old Celtic bards

called him, "Mighty Caros, King of Ships." Numerous coins bearing his image and superscription were recently dug up on the slopes of the Little Orme.

A beautiful ravine, called the "Fairy Glen," lies in the Conwy Valley between the mouth of the Machno and the next tributary of importance, the Lledr. Here the wooded banks, the sparkling stream, and rocks covered with mosses, lichens, and ferns make a lovely scene. In the glen is a pool called Llyn yr Afanc, or the "Beaver's Pool," and, no doubt, in olden times the river was the home of that curious animal.

The valley of the Lledr runs parallel to that of the Machno, but is larger and more beautiful. About the middle, stands the old world village of Dolwyddelan, a mile beyond which are the ruins of "Dolwyddelan's lonely tower." The "tower" forms the remains of a castle that once stood here, and really consists of two square but ruinous towers. They are perched upon a high rock and form interesting links with other days. No one knows when the castle was built, but it was the home of Iorwerth Drwyndwn, the birthplace of Llewelyn the Great, and the home of Meredydd ab Evan. Dolwyddelan was the last castle in North Wales to yield to the army of Edward I., who partly destroyed it in 1283.

In this district, near the Roman road *Sarn Helen*, which crosses the mountains between the Lledr and the Machno, is the hill fortress of Pen-caer-Helen. The sides of this fort are protected by sharply-pointed stones placed on end in the ground. They are not very high, but, no doubt, were very useful to check a wild rush, or a sudden onslaught made by an enemy on the camp.

At Bettws y Coed, the Conwy is joined by the Llugwy. Bettws y Coed stands in an exceedingly beautiful neighbourhood, which has been called the "Paradise of Wales." All around are high mountains, among which nestle quiet lakes,

Fairy Glen, Bettws y Coed.

and sparkling streams that flow through lovely dells. It is a famous haunt of artists and tourists.

The Llugwy rises high in the lonely hollows of Carnedd Llewelyn, and trickles out of the dark waters of Ffynnon Llugwy, eleven miles from the Conwy. South, and then west, it flows through a desolate valley lying at the foot of Y Glyder Fach. It is still a small stream, when, at Capel Curig, it is joined by the Gwrhyd, which, rising on the slopes of Y Glyder Fawr, expands on its course into the two small lakes known as Llyniau Mymbyr.

Capel Curig, a small village, forms one of the centres for the ascent of Snowdon, and here "Snowdon and all his sons, Crib Goch, Crib y Distyll, Lliwedd yr Aran, and many others, burst into view." South lies Moel Siabod, to the west are the Glyders, and nearer is the fine peak of Penllithrig y Wrach.

The Llugwy rushes under Pont Cyfyng in a pretty cascade, and about a mile and a half beyond are the famous Swallow Falls. The name is a corruption. The falls are known in Welsh as Rhaiadr Ewynnol (the *foaming* waterfall), but the word "ewynnol" has been corrupted into "y *wennol*" (the swallow), whence the derivation of the "Swallow Falls." These falls are three in number, and form what is acknowledged to be the finest cataracts in Wales. "Overhanging trees, the dark colour of the rocks, the boiling of the waters, the mist, the foam, and the roar," all combine to make the scene one of alluring beauty. From the uproar the waters seem to hurry, as if anxious to pass beneath Pont y Pair (the bridge of the cauldron) and pour themselves into the Conwy.

Below Bettws y Coed the valley of the Conwy expands, and the woods and cliffs of the Carnarvonshire side are rivalled in beauty by the soft glories of the fertile meadows and uplands of the Denbighshire bank. The river, now deep

Trefriw.

and rapid, soon flows under the three-arched bridge at Llanrwst, to become a tidal estuary a little below that town.

Llanrwst is a Denbighshire town, and lies in a valley of great beauty. It contains little of interest except its church, where is preserved the stone coffin of Llewelyn the Great, which was conveyed there from Maenan Abbey when the monks were driven from that place. The rood screen of the church is also said to have been removed from the abbey.

On the opposite side of the river is Gwydir House, the home of the Wynnes. The house was first built in 1555, and some portions of the old building still stand. It contains many objects of interest, notably some interesting tapestry and beautiful oak-carvings, and it is said to have taken its name (*Gwydir* or *Gwaed-tir*—Bloody Land) from a battle fought here in 610 A.D., between Llywarch Hen and the Saxons. Some, however, think that the name comes from *Gwy*—water, and *tir*—land.

Trefriw, a town on the river a short distance north of Llanrwst, has mineral springs. The tide ascends to the town, making the river navigable for small vessels, which arrive here laden with coal and groceries, and return with cargoes of slate.

The ruins of Maenan Abbey stand on the right bank of the river, on a tract of land that intrudes into Denbighshire. The remains of the Abbey are very scanty. Near Trefriw the Conwy is joined by the Crafnant, which flows through Llyn Crafnant. East of Llyn Crafnant is Llyn Geirionydd, which is joined to the Crafnant brook by a short stream. On the shores of this lake the great Welsh bard Taliesin is said to have lived, and a slate slab, with a cross on the top, is said to mark the site of his grave.

The Afon Ddu, which rises in Llyn Cowlyd and during its course leaps over the pretty Dolgarrog Falls, joins the

Conwy below Trefriw. Another fine water-fall in this district is that of Porthlwyd, on the river of that name, which flows from Llyn Eigiau and joins the Conwy near Talybont. Above Talybont is Caerhun, where the ditches and banks of the Roman station of *Conovium* are to be seen.

The valley of the Conway is now wider. The river is tidal, and is deep enough to float the little pleasure steamers from Llandudno and Conway as far as Trefriw. Soon it flows under the grey and ancient walls of Conway, and, forming a sandy estuary, empties itself into the sea between Penmaenmawr and Great Ormes's Head.

CHAPTER V.

The Basin of the Ogwen.

LLYN OGWEN lies in a long trough between the steep sides of Carnedd Dafydd and Y Tryfan. Several small streams flow into the lake from the tarns and mountains around, one of the former, Llyn Bochlwyd, lying between the precipices of Y Glyder Fach and Y Tryfan. Though this district is a tract of lonely moors and desolate rocks, backed by precipitous heights, the scenery is sublime in its ruggedness and awe-inspiring in its solitude.

South-west of Llyn Ogwen, in a gloomy recess on the slopes of Y Glyder Fawr, is Llyn Idwal, "the wildest and most savage of the Welsh lakes." The lake was formed by a glacier, and its waters are still kept in by a bank of stones and mud, such as is generally found at the terminus of one of these rivers of ice. High in the face of the cliff at the upper end of the lake is Twll Du, or Devil's Kitchen, a nar-

row gloomy cleft in the rock some hundred yards deep, down whose sides falls the water from Llyn y Cwn to find its way into Llyn Idwal below. The bare black cliffs almost surround the lake, making it one of the gloomiest in Wales, and on the mountain sides are huge slides of broken rocks which have been called "rivers of stones." All around are traces of glacial action, the cliffs showing abundant scratches and scars made by the ice when in motion.

"The sad story of Prince Idwal, a son of Owen Gwynedd, is part of this lake's history. He was slain by his foster-father, Nefydd Hardd, while they were out hunting together, and his body was thrown into the lake. From that day it has been called by his name." Old tales tell us that the lake is the haunt of demons, and that its waters are so fatal in effect that no bird dares fly over its surface.

The River Ogwen flows out from Llyn Ogwen through a narrow gorge called the Pass of the Benglog, Y Benglog being the local name for Tryfan, and it is soon joined by a stream running from Llyn Idwal. Over a series of waterfalls, or cataracts, the river reaches the lower ground in Nant Ffrancon, or Nant yr Afanc (Beaver's Valley). Nant Ffrancon is three miles long, and when the surrounding heights are indistinct in mist, or scudding clouds, the glen is impressive in its grandeur. When the glen comes to an end the valley widens, and on the slopes of the mountains to the west huge mounds of slate rubbish mark the site of the great Penrhyn Slate Quarries.

Bethesda, anciently known as Glanogwen, stands about a mile from the quarries on the opposite bank of the river. This is a busy town, where the quarrymen and their families live. Town and quarries are connected with Bangor by a railway, and a narrow gauge line runs direct from the quarries to Port Penrhyn, where the slates are shipped for transport to all parts.

Ogwen Lake.

Bethesda is five miles from Bangor, and is a town of some 5,300 inhabitants, all of whom depend in some form or other upon the slate industry. It obtains its water from a reservoir which is situated about half a mile from the town. "A feature of the town is the number of neat cottages which are owned by the workmen themselves." Many accidents occur at the slate quarries, and to relieve the sufferings of the injured and to provide them with the best possible treatment, a hospital has been erected by Lord Penrhyn. It was opened in 1843, and stands near the quarries, so that the injured workmen may receive attention with the least possible delay.

Below Bethesda, the Ogwen flows through an ever-widening valley towards the model village of Llandegai. Within the church in the village are some ancient tombstones, which were taken from the monastery of Llanfaes. Here lies buried John Williams, the famous Archbishop of York in Charles I.'s time, and the last Ecclesiastical Lord Chancellor of England. A little beyond Llandegai is Penrhyn Castle, a beautiful mansion in the Norman style of architecture, and the home of Lord Penrhyn. The castle is built on the site of a palace of Rhodri Molwynog, who reigned in 720 A.D. The Ogwen flows through the park and empties its waters into the Menai Straits, between Bangor Flats on the west, and the Lavan Sands on the east.

Bethesda.

CHAPTER VI.

The Basin of the Seiont.

THE source of the River Seiont lies near that of a tributary of the Llugwy, to the south of Y Glyder Fawr, and the highest point of land dividing the two river sources is known as Gorphwysfa, or Resting Place. The ridge called Y Llechog here comes so close to the Glyder Fawr that the two ridges are only separated at their bases by a narrow pass.

This ravine is the famous Pass of Llanberis, one of the wildest and most rugged of the gorges of Wales, into which the broken and split-up rocks of the mountains above have been rolled, or washed, down in large quantities. They lie in the hollow, piled up and scattered about in wild confusion, and through them the Seiont struggles to escape to find a smoother course to the sea. About half way up the pass, on the left bank of the stream, is Cwm Glas, a glacier-formed hollow, which extends right to the heights of Snowdon. Glacier-formed heaps of stones, or moraines, lie scattered around its sides, and at the end of the cwm "is an upland valley said to be wildest in all Wales."

The brook, once the pass is left behind, is swollen by numerous streams from the hills on each side, and, flowing past the village of Old Llanberis, enters the upper of the two lakes it forms during its course. This lake, Llyn Peris, is separated by a narrow, level strip of land, called Y Bala, from the lower lake, Llyn Padarn. The scenery, though sadly marred in parts by the tremendous slate quarries dug

Llanberis and Snowdon.

into the mountain side, still retains much of its wild beauty.

Llyn Padarn, the larger of the two lakes, is about two miles long, but is rather narrow. Of the Welsh lakes it is only exceeded in area by Llyn Fyrnwy, in Montgomeryshire, and Llyn y Bala, in Merionethshire. Elidyr Fawr rises to the east and Moel Eilio to the west, and these mountains decrease in height as they approach the northern end of the lake, to be lost at length in the plain.

Though Llyn Peris is smaller than the lower lake, it is more beautiful, the background of the mountains being higher and grander. Unfortunately, "the lake is gradually disappearing under the filling-up process from the quarries."

Afon Arddu, which rises on the north-western side of Snowdon, in Llyn Du'r Arddu, flows into Llyn Peris, and a short distance from its entry into the lake it is joined by a stream flowing from Llyn Dwythwch. The combined waters of these streams flow through a deep chasm at the end of the valley and, rushing over a shelf of rock sixty feet high, form the fine water-fall of Ceunant Mawr.

On the rock that overhangs the neck of land between the upper and the lower lakes, stand the remains of Dolbadarn Castle, a building so old that no account of its foundation is known. Some people think that it was built by Maelgwyn Gwynedd, in the sixth century, but it is probably of a much later date. The ruin consists of a round tower, which covers the summit of the rock. It had originally three floors and a basement, which formed a dungeon, or a storehouse. A spiral staircase once led from one floor to another, a few broken steps which yet remain. In appearance it is very much like Dolwyddelan Castle.

The position of the Castle was one of great importance, as it commanded a pass that leads right into the heart of Snowdonia, the stronghold of the Welsh Princes during so many periods of stress and danger. The castle was so strong that

for many years it formed the prison of Owen Goch, who had rebelled against his brother Llewelyn ab Iorwerth. After the death of Prince Llewelyn ab Gruffydd it was defended against Edward I. by David, in 1283, but the Earl of Pembroke assaulted and captured it. David managed to escape, but shortly afterwards was betrayed into the hands of Edward, by whom he was executed. The castle figured in the wars of Owen Glyndwr, and during the struggle was taken and re-taken several times.

The inhabitants of Old Llanberis, like those of Bethesda, depend to a great extent upon the slate industry for their livelihood, but some of them find an additional source of income in catering for the wants of visitors, who make the village a centre for the Snowdon district. The chief tourist centre, however, is the new village of Llanberis, which, with the railway station, stands near the junction of the two lakes. Here are found the modern villas and hotels built for the convenience of visitors during the season. The Dinorwic Slate Quarries are opposite, and near the quarries is the hospital, where injured workmen are conveyed to be treated for their injuries.

The River Seiont, after issuing from Llyn Padarn, flows peacefully northwards. Nothing of much interest stands near its course until it passes beneath the site of the once important Roman station, *Segontium*, at Llanbeblig, where many relics of the Romans have been discovered. Three-quarters of a mile below Llanbeblig the river flows beneath the majestic walls of Carnarvon Castle, and empties its waters into the Menai Straits.

CHAPTER VII.

The Gwyrfai and the Llyfni.

THE Gwyrfai flows from Llyn y Gadair, a small lake set in the midst of desolate moors on the south-west of the Snowdonian Mountains. Swollen by many small streams, it pours its waters into Llyn Cwellyn (Cawell-lyn), which lies between Mynyddmawr and Moel Eilio. Between the two lakes are Glanyrafon Slate Quarries. The river flows from Llyn Cwellyn through a valley of quiet beauty. "There is no wildness, the small cascades and the beautiful colouring of rocks and trees, seen against the dark sides of the mountains, form a picture always justly admired."

The river flows quietly by Bettws Garmon, and then past Bontnewydd, the largest village on its banks, and empties its waters into Forhyd Bay near the village of Llanfaglan. Another small stream that flows into Forhyd Bay is the Carog, which rises in a small tarn on the slopes of a spur of Mynyddmawr. On the opposite side of the same spur rises Afon Llifon, which follows a winding course, and flows into Carnarvon Bay a short distance north of the mouth of the Llyfni.

The Llyfni rises on the southern slopes of Mynyddmawr, at the highest end of the Pass of Drws y Coed. It gradually descends to the level of the plain, and at the base of the mountains opens out into the pretty lakes of Nantlle. These are two in number and are fed by other streams from the mountains to the west.

From the western end of the lakes, Snowdon is seen closing in the Pass of Drws y Coed. The view of Y

Bettws Garmon Valley (View at Nant's Mill).

Wyddfa, which here presents a very imposing appearance, forms the subject of the well-known painting by the celebrated artist David Wilson. The scenery in some parts of the district is marred by the heaps of rubbish and huge clefts of the slate quarries of Nantlle, a busy little mining and quarrying town situated north of the lakes.

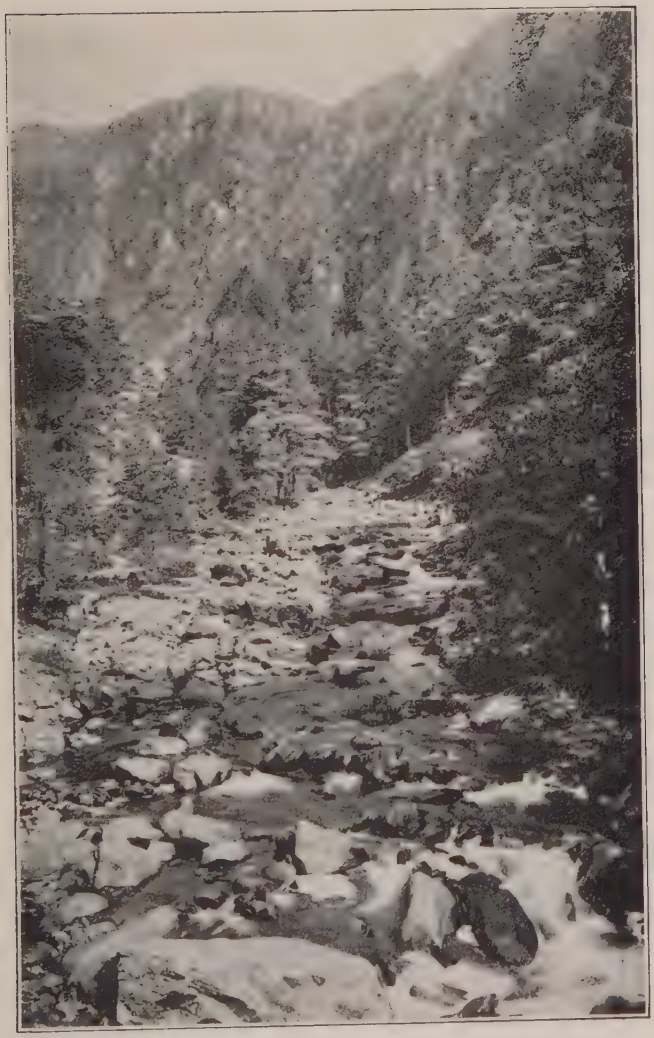
Mynyddmawr extends to the north of Nantlle in Moel y Tryfan. This height rises over 1,300 feet above the sea-level. This is not a great height as Carnarvonshire mountains go, but on its summit is an old sea-beach, where shells like those seen in Artic regions at the present time are to be found. It is to be distinguished from the lofty Tryfan in Nant Ffrancon.

Below Nantlle the river passes Llanllyfni, and in the neighbourhood of the village stood an old house where Edward I. spent some time in the summer of 1284. The river now follows a winding course, and after a few miles journey through a pleasant and fertile district flows into Carnarvon Bay.

CHAPTER VIII.

The Basin of the Glaslyn.

ON the eastern side of Snowdon, deeply placed at the bottom of a huge *cwm* and surrounded by precipices, are Llyn Glaslyn, Y Ffynnon Las and Llyn Llydaw. From these lakes issue a stream, the Glaslyn, that rounds the base of Y Lliwedd and flows rapidly down Cwm Dyli. From Cwm Dyli it enters "the picturesque vale of Nant Gwynant, the scene of many a bloody skirmish in the time of Edward IV."



Aberglaslyn.

In this valley the Glaslyn opens out into a lovely lake, Llyn Gwynant, set in the middle of some of the most beautiful scenery in Carnarvonshire. "A steep, green slope, covered at the bottom with small copses and single trees, forming the lower ridge of Y Lliwedd, bounds the lake on one side. On the other side is a range of richly broken ground, where rocks and woods are combined together by the hand of nature with wonderful wildness and variety."

A short stream connects Llyn Gwynant with Llyn y Ddinas, which lies below it. These two lakes differ much from each other, as the former is surrounded by the softer beauties of nature, but the latter by "her wild and barren charms."

The river, below Llyn y Ddinas, flows through a narrow valley, in which stands the isolated rock of Dinas Emrys, from which the lake is named. On the summit of the rock once stood an ancient castle, built, so the old tales say, by the wizard Merlin for Vortigern. Here Vortigern fled for safety after the massacre of the "Treachery of the Long Knives," but in spite of the strength of the castle he felt unsafe, and fled still further to the recesses of Nant Gwrtheyrn, in Lleyn.

A short distance below Dinas Emrys is Beddgelert, a picturesque village at the foot of Moel Hebog, associated with Wordsworth, Froude, Kingsley, and many Welsh men of letters. The scene of Kingley's "Two Years Ago" is laid mainly at Beddgelert. Here the Glaslyn is joined by the Colwyn, a tributary that flows from the south-western slopes of Snowdon. Soon after the junction of these two streams their combined waters enter the famous ravine known as the Pass of Aberglaslyn. The pass is a deep cut gorge, a rent made in the body of the mountains, so narrow at the bottom that there is barely room for the highway and the river. Pine-clad cliffs rise in

precipices some seven or eight hundred feet high on each side.

"It is, in fact, a little bit of Switzerland, pure and simple, except that the charming river which sings so merrily in the narrow gorge is happily no foul mud-coloured glacier stream, but of a crystal quality even above, if that were possible, the quality of Welsh streams. The scene from the one-arched, ivy-clad bridge, Pont Aberglaslyn, has been written and sung of, painted and photographed by many generations."

"The different colours of the rocks, black, grey, and red," writes another author, "the colour of the grasses, mosses and lichens, combined with that of the vegetation, and the abruptness of the precipices on the left or eastern bank of the stream, make a scene of great beauty. During its passage through the pass the river has a steep descent, rushing along with vast rapidity and noise; and where the surface of the river is not broken into waves or covered with foam, it reflects the great variety of tints, green and brown of every shade, of the scene above. . . The lofty steepness of the rocks, their bareness and dark colour, the narrowness of the chasm and the roaring fury of the river, cannot but at all times fill the mind with ideas of grandeur and even of terror."

The river flows from the gorge beneath Pont Aberglaslyn. Its deep, clear waters run on for a short distance between rocky walls and wooded banks. At length it flows in a silent and now wider stream through the Vale of Tremadoc, and empties its waters into Cardigan Bay, at the town of Portmadoc, which stands at its mouth.

CHAPTER IX.

Physical Features of Lleyn and Eifionydd.

THE peninsula of Lleyn and Eifionydd extends, roughly, in a south-westerly direction from a line drawn from Clynnog Fawr to Portmadoc. The coast is rugged, especially on the south, and a great part of the district is flat and woodless. A range of mountains, however, extends across the peninsula, rising here and there into cone-shaped summits. This range, some eighteen miles long and about four miles broad, begins near Clynnog Fawr and runs down to a point opposite Bardsey Island.

The first portion of the range runs parallel to the coast, and from Clynnog Fawr to Yr Eifl (The Rivals) it stretches as a flat-topped hill. It rises in places to such peaks as Y Gyrn-Ddu, Y Gyrn-Goch, and Moel Penllechog, and the forked peaks of Yr Eifl are prominent for miles around. The highest point of Yr Eifl is over 1,800 feet high, and a spur to the north pushes itself boldly into the sea, forming a headland second only to that of Penmaenmawr. Few mountains are as imposing for their height as is Yr Eifl, which stands out prominently and grandly from all points of view.

The range follows, indeed it forms, the coast as far as Nevin, when it turns to the south-west, in the direction of Braich y Pwll. The highest points beyond Yr Eifl are Mynydd Nevin and Carn Boduan, just outside Nevin, Carn Fadryn in the interior, and Mynydd y Rhiw, Mynydd Annelog, and Mynydd Mawr on the south-western projection of the peninsula.

Yr Eifl (The Rivals).

These mountains, with the exception of Yr Eifl, seem tame in comparison with those of the other part of the county. They are, however, highly interesting, as on several of the peaks are the remains of ancient British stations. Here are to be seen ruins of houses and walls, composed of loose, uncemented stones, within which the old inhabitants sheltered, let us hope, securely, from the ravages of their enemies.

The most complete and noted of these old hill strongholds is "Tre'r Ceiri," the town or home of giants. It stands on the summit of the south peak of Yr Eifl, and is one of the finest examples in existence. The inner walls enclose an area of about five acres, on which are scattered considerably over one hundred huts. A few years ago a number of these huts were carefully examined, and the gentlemen who conducted the investigation made an interesting report of their observations and discoveries.

"The *cytiau* are situated in groups on the terrace and on the slope, and also under the inner face of the walls. In the latter case each hut has a wall built against the rampart with, in some instances, a narrow intervening space. The forms and sizes of the huts are varied. Some are circular or pear-shaped, and others again are oblong and rectangular. When in clusters the outer curve of the innermost hut influenced the form of that adjoining. In a few instances the doors of the *cytiau* appear to open out of a small space or hall, entered through a common doorway. . . Occasionally the huts are double, one chamber leading into another. In a few instances an outer curved wall protected the entrance. The entrances varied in width from a little over two feet to four feet. The walls of the huts, which are very rudely built, are usually four feet wide, and vary in height from three feet to six feet."

The excavators discovered some interesting relics indicative of human occupation and of value as forming evidences

as to the probable time of the erection of the *cytiau*. These finds consisted of charcoal, pottery of Roman and British-Celtic manufacture, a few porcelain beads of Egyptian manufacture, a beautiful gold-plated bronze fibula of Celtic manufacture, a hammer-adze, billhook, and other specimens of iron work and a bone comb. Some of the huts were fitted with rude hearthstones.

These finds made the gentlemen who conducted the explorations come to the following conclusions: The fortifications and huts were erected by the people whose relics were discovered on the site. The fortress was only temporarily occupied, and that in the summer season alone, as the charcoal remains are few and the site is too bleak and damp for winter occupation. The race which erected the walls and huts probably lived in the first century of the Christian era. Smaller fortresses of a similar kind to Tre'r Ceiri are to be seen on Carn Boduan, a height above Nevin, on Carn Fadryn, and on a hill above Llanbedrog.

The view from Yr Eifl is famed for its grandeur and wildness. All Lleyn lies at one's feet, Carnarvon Bay is to the north, the Irish Sea to the west, Cardigan Bay to the south, and the whole range of the Snowdonian peaks comes into view on the east. Under the northern side of the mountain is the hollow of Nant Gwrtheyrn. Here, the old tales say, was the last home of the weak and unfortunate Vortigern.

"Fancy cannot frame a place more fit for retreat from the knowledge of mankind, or more apt to inspire full hopes of security. Embosomed in a lofty mountain, on two sides it is bounded by stony steeps, on which no vegetation appears but the blasted heath and the stunted gorse. The third side shows a most tremendous front of black precipice, with the loftiest peak of the mountain, Eifl, towering above. The only opening towards this secluded spot is the sea; a northern aspect! where the chilling wind exerts its fury and

half freezes, during the winter, the few inhabitants." Such is the site of Bedd Gwrtheyrn, or the Grave of Vortigern.

The rivers of Lleyn are numerous, but they are all short streams, the largest of which flow to the south. The Afon Fawr rises on the slopes of Rhos Hirwaen and empties its waters into Aberdaron Bay. The Soch has its source in Carn Fadryn, and is joined by Nant Bodlas near Llandegwning. After a winding course it flows into the sea at Abersoch. The Erch, another winding stream, rises in Moel Penllechog, and enters the sea at Abererch, a short distance east of Pwllheli. The largest of the brooks of the district is the Dwyfawr, which drains the greater portion of Eifionydd. It rises on the slopes of Y Garnedd Goch, and flows into the sea a little west of Criccieth. Its tributary, the Dwyfach, rises on the east of Llwydmawr, and joins the Dwyfawr near its mouth.

CHAPTER X.

A Trip Around the Coast.

NOTHING can be more pleasant than a sea trip when the weather is calm and the sun is shining brightly overhead. We are at Llandudno, and as the day is one of the finest, we will take a trip around the coast of the county to see how it appears from the sea. We board the steamer at the pier, and when once we are clear of the shore she points her bows to the north.

To our right rise Little Orme's Head and the Rhiwledyn Cliffs, which form the eastern shores of Orme's Bay, and to our left is Pen Trwyn, while behind is Llandudno, placed on the narrowest part of Creuddyn. Once round Pen Trwyn

Llandudno Pier.

the noble promontory of Great Orme's Head, the most northerly point of the county, comes into full view. The coast here is dangerous to shipping. One vessel, the Hornby, was wrecked just below the lighthouse, on New Year's Day, 1824, and the disaster is commemorated in Hornby Cave, which is situated in the cliff near the point where the ship struck. The vessel contained a quantity of treasure, and in July, 1910, an attempt was made by a salvage company to locate the ship and so recover the Treasure. The sands have, however, embedded the wreck, and the chances are that the attempt to salve the treasure will prove futile.

We keep well out from the shore to avoid the rocks and shoals, and when we have rounded Great Orme's Head the ship's bows are pointed directly westward. The headland falls rapidly behind, and we have a splendid view of the mountains of East Carnarvonshire, of the coast far to the west, and of the eastern side of the Isle of Anglesey.

The mouth of the River Conwy lies about five miles to our left, and the towers and walls of Conway town and castle are plainly visible. Huge sandbanks fringe the river mouth; Gogarth seems quite near; and careful search reveals the ruins of Deganwy Castle.

The steamer now shapes her course for Puffin Island, which is said to belong to Flintshire, and lies near the entrance to the Menai Straits. Here on the coast of Anglesey is a very fine lighthouse. We have to keep so far to the north on account of the sandbanks which lie in this portion of the sea. On our way Penmaenbach and Penmaenmawr claim attention in the foreground. In the middle distance lies the fertile level tract that fringes the coast, while in the background rises the saw-like wall of the Snowdonian Mountains.

Leaving Puffin Island (also known as Priestholme and as Ynys Seiriol), on our right, we enter the

Menai Straits. Sandbanks lie on each side, chief among them, to our left, being the well known Lavan Sands (Traeth Lavan), a bank which is four miles square. Across this huge sandbank we see the little village of Aber, with a pointed, wooded hill called Maes y Gaer to the left, and Y Foel Fras and Y Drosgyl keeping watch some miles inland. Shortly we are at Beaumaris, where a brief stay is made before we head for Bangor, our next port of call.

The mouth of the Ogwen now claims our attention, with the square tower of Penrhyn Castle rising from the wooded park on its banks. Port Penrhyn, where the slates from the Penrhyn Quarries are shipped, lies west of the castle. As we pass the mouth of the river we get a glimpse into Nant Ffrancon, with Moel Perfedd to the west, Carnedd Llewelyn to the east, and Y Garn and the Glyders in the rear.

A short stay at Bangor, and we enter the narrowest part of the Straits. The wooded shores of Anglesey slope to the water's edge, and a standy strip of the Carnarvonshire coast lies to our left. The two shores are almost parallel and are here only about half a mile apart. The passage winds snake-like between the shores; in front is the graceful Suspension Bridge; the shores approach each other nearer and nearer; we are at the bridge; and this portion of our trip comes to an end.

CHAPTER XI.

A Trip Around the Coast.—II.

FROM Menai Bridge we return to Bangor and board one of the pleasure steamers bound for Carnarvon. This is a ten mile journey, and requires careful navigation, as at

times, during certain tides, the current through the Straits is very strong. It is then positively dangerous for small boats.

We soon pass under the Suspension Bridge and remark how high it is above the water, and how gossamer-like it appears at that height. To our right, on a little promontory, is the little Church of Llandisilio. The Tubular Bridge bursts into view and we shoot under the big bridge itself. Then come Llanfair and the Nelson Column on the Anglesey shore, and Vaynol Park on our left. Port Dinorwic, which exports Llanberis slates, follows on the Carnarvonshire side. The shores grow tamer and less wooded; ahead is Yr Eifl, and soon we are at Carnarvon.

At Carnarvon we find a little coasting steamer, which will take us around the remaining portion of the coast to Portmadoc. We set off from beneath the shadow of the mighty Castle of Carnarvon, and we cannot but keep it in view as we steam along. The grim walls on the banks of the Seiont seem to haunt us until they have quite disappeared from sight.

We are now almost at the western entrance to the Straits. To our left is the sandy opening of Forhyd Bay, which is separated from the sea by a sandy strip called Morfa Dinlle. We pass between Abermenai Point and Belan, we round the beacon at the entrance to the Straits, across Carnarvon Bar and are steaming over the waters of Carnarvon Bay.

Our course is now south, and Dinas Dinlle, an ancient fortified hill station, said to have been connected with *Segontium*, comes into view. The Britons and Romans are both thought to have had posts here, and the remains show a double line of defences which, on the seaward side, have suffered from the action of the waves. Soon we pass the site of Caer Arianrod—a supposed submerged town—and the mouths of the Llifon and the Llyfni. Sandy banks backed

by cliffs form the shore, and as our boat turns slightly to the west we notice the Gwydir lighthouse, placed to warn sailors of the dangers of Trwyn y Tal Point.

We are now off Yr Eifl, and carefully scanning the coast we see the gloomy recesses of Nant Gwrtheyrn. Steering south-west we arrive off the little port of Nevin, which stands on the sandy shore of Porth Nevin Bay. Separated from this bay by a narrow point of land is Porth Dinlleyn Bay, with Porth Dinlleyn Point guarding it on the west. Cliffs, mingled with sloping beaches, are passed, and numerous little bays which the sea has curved out of the land.

In quick succession we leave behind Porth Sgadan, Porth y Gwinllan, Penllech Bay, Point Coleman, Point Glas and Porth Oer, and passing Mynydd Annelog and Mynydd Mawr arrive off Braich y Pwll, the "Land's End" of North Wales. If we glance at the map we cannot help noticing what a striking resemblance there is between the Carnarvonshire Lleyn and Cornwall. Our ship turns to the east and steams through Bardsey Sound, which separates Bardsey Island from the mainland. On the island we notice the lighthouse and the few remaining walls of the ancient and famous abbey that once stood there.

Still steaming eastwards, we pass Pen-y-Kil, Aberdaron Bay, on which stands the village of Aberdaron, the Trwyn, Porth Cadlan, Talfarach Point, Porth Nigel, and arrive off Penkilan Head, the most southerly point on the mainland of the county. Porth Nigel has the alternative name of Hell's Mouth, which was given it because it is so dangerous to the shipping that use these waters.

East of Penkilan Head, and between it and Wylfa Head, is Porth Ceiriad, or Caered. From this point the coast trends to the north and sweeps round to the east in the huge curve of Tremadoc Bay, which extends along the whole of the southern shore of the peninsula. The outline of the coast

is roughly in the form of an oval, and the water forms the northern portion of the great Cardigan Bay.

North-east of Wylfa Head are two small islands known as St. Tudwal's Islands, and our course lies between these and the mainland. St. Tudwal's Roads lie north of the islands and afford shelter and safe anchorage for shipping. West of the roadstead is a sandy bay, into which the River Soch empties its waters, and at the mouth of the stream is the village of Abersoch.

The remaining portion of the coast runs in an easterly direction. Here and there are headlands which lie between small sandy bays. The chief of these headlands are : Llanbedrog Point, Carreg yr Imbill (Gimlet Rock) and Penychain Point. Several little fishing villages and watering-places are situated on this stretch of coast.

Llanbedrog lies between Llanbedrog Point and Carreg y Defaid. Pwllheli comes next into view, and a short distance to the east is Abererch, on the mouth of the River Erch. As we steam eastwards we notice the mouths of Afon Wen and Afon Dwyfawr, which find a resting-place in the waters of Tremadoc Bay.

Shortly after passing the mouth of the Dwyfawr we see the ancient and historic borough of Criccieth, the walls of the ruined Castle forming a bold object in the view. Ahead is the opening formed by the waters of the Glaslyn and the Dwyryd, with the peaks of the southern portion of Snowdonia in the background. The bows of the steamer point up the channel through which the Glaslyn finds its way to the sea, and in a short time we are at Portmadoc, the end of our journey.

CHAPTER XII.

The Promontory of Creuddyn.

THE Promontory of Creuddyn forms one of the three detached portions of Carnarvonshire that lie on the eastern bank of the River Conwy. The tract on which Maenan Abbey stood, and a costal strip to the east of Colwyn Bay, on which stands the village of Llysfaen, are the others.

Creuddyn "is a strange block of lumpy, broken country . . a dozen square miles, perhaps, in area. It lurches out into the sea, with the two Orme headlands forming its ends, and Llandudno lying between them. . . Between the villages and villas, and scrubby plantations of new country houses, it is a district of rare sweeps of gorse-lit commons and billowy uplands of emerald turf, that end in wild outbreaks of naked crags and sterile rocks." Sandy flats and rolling sand-dunes prevail towards the shore on the Conway side.

Several old and interesting manor houses, Gloddaeth, Bodscallon, Penrhyn and Marl, are situated in the district. Gloddaeth and Bodscallon are the property of the Mostyn family, but the others have lost their ancient manorial glory. Penrhyn is associated with many legends of olden times, the most gruesome of which relates how two sisters murdered their brother so that they could inherit the manorhouse and its lands. Marl is a fairly modern mansion, now used as a convalescent home for females sent there from the hospitals of Birmingham, but the ruins of an older house, built in Tudor times, stand in the vicinity.

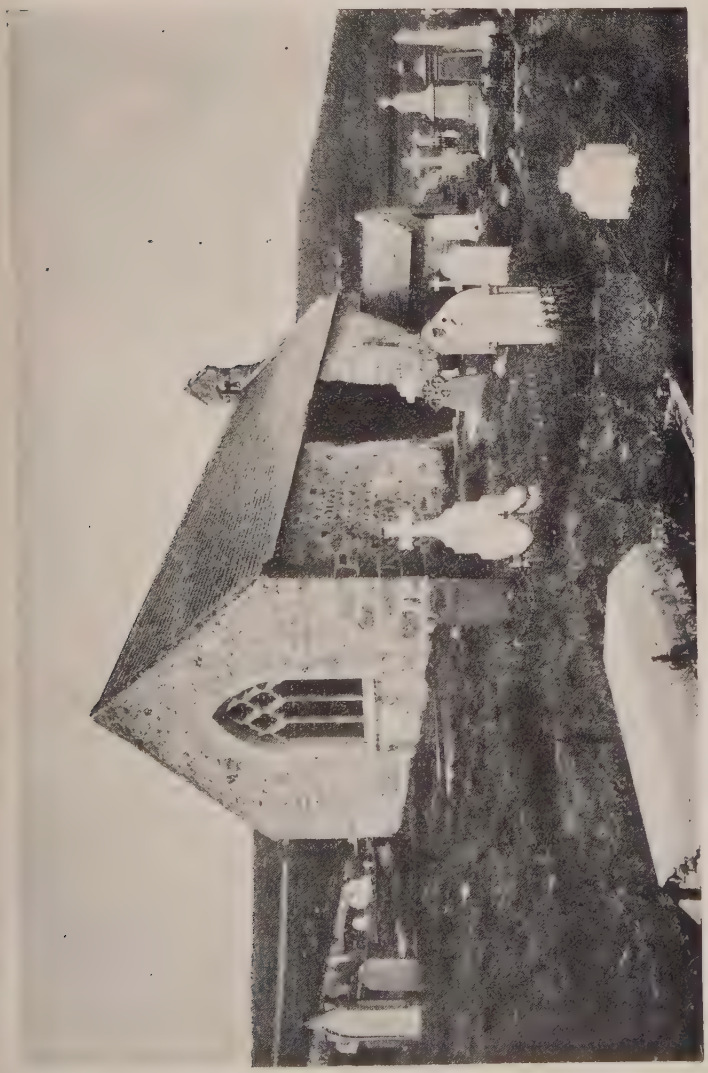
Gloddaeth, a very old house, which contains many pictures and other treasures, was in the 15th century the home of a gentleman named Griffith ab Rhys. He had eight children, all of whom died of the plague. This sad occurrence gave rise to a long poem, or dirge, written by a bardic friend of the bereaved father, named Ddu ab Siensen.

Bodscallon, just across the valley from Gloddaeth, was in the 5th century the home of Cadwallon, a famous Welsh King. The name of the house has been derived from this circumstance, as Bodscallon is a corruption of Bod-Cadwallon, the Place, or House, of Cadwallon. During Stuart times it was owned by Hugh Wynne, a brave and ardent Royalist, who raised a regiment of horse at his own expense to fight for King Charles I.

Gogarth, on the south-western side of the peninsula, is thought to have been a palace of the Bishops of Bangor. A few remains of buildings of a very early date may still be seen, but time has nearly swept them all away. Some people think that Gogarth was in some way connected with the Abbey of Conway.

The two enormous masses of mountain limestone, the Great Orme and the Little Orme, rise in precipices from the sea and form striking objects in the coast scenery for miles around. A carriage drive, which in places has been cut into the rock underneath the cliffs and at the edge of the precipices, has been made around the Great Orme.

On Great Orme's Head stands the Parish Church of St. Tudno, which for many years was in ruins, but was carefully restored in 1855. The first church on this site is said to have been a cell built in the 5th century by the saint after whom the church has been named. A larger church was built in the 12th century, and at a later period a chancel was added. A very old font and two ancient stone coffin slabs are preserved within the building.



St. Tudno's Church, Llandudno.

Pen Dinas, which overlooks the town of Llandudno, was the site of a British fortress. Some few remains of the enclosing walls and circular hut sites may be traced, but the quarrying of the headland threatens to sweep away all traces of this ancient stronghold. In one corner stands a "rocking stone," known as Cryd Tudno, Tudno's Cradle, which has been overbalanced in some way and cannot now be moved.

Deganwy, on the estuary of the Conwy, is in Creuddyn. From a few houses it has of late years become a growing watering-place. The estuary of the Conwy here is about three hundred yards wide, and flows to the sea in a clean, deep channel. Deganwy was a station of the Brythonic Celts, and the ruins of Castell Deganwy are thought to stand on the site of a very ancient fortress. Here also was the Roman station known as *Dictum*. The site is a commanding one and occupies an elevated position in a small hollow between two huge rocks. The ruins now standing are those of the castle erected by King Henry III., in 1246. The castle frequently changed owners, and played an important part in the wars between the Normans, or English, and the Welsh.

King John was repulsed here by the army of Llewelyn ab Iorwerth. The Welshmen got behind the English forces and cut off their supply of food, thus forcing them to retreat. Henry III. was shut up here by the forces of Dafydd ab Llewelyn, and he and his garrison suffered greatly before they were relieved. Llewelyn ab Gruffydd captured the castle from the English, and in 1262 he destroyed it by throwing down the walls. The ruins are but few, as most of the stones were transported by Edward I. to be used in the construction of Conway Castle. On Bryniau Hill, one mile away, is a tower said to have been an outpost to Deganwy Castle.

CHAPTER XIII.

Llandudno.

THE town of Llandudno owes its prosperity to its striking situation on the shores of a gently curving bay between the two high and rocky headlands of Great and Little Orme. Not only is its situation so attractive, but it is also blessed with pure air, and sandy beaches excellently adapted for bathing and boating.

It is a handsome and well-built town, with splendid buildings, arranged, more or less, in curves parallel to the curve of the bay. Large numbers of the houses have been built to accommodate the tens of thousands of visitors who arrive during the summer season. The ordinary population of the town is about 10,000, but in summer the arrival of the visitors increases it to nearly 40,000. The place is well-drained and has a splendid supply of pure water, which is brought from the Dulyn and Melynllyn Lakes, twelve miles away.

The principal street is Mostyn Street. It stretches almost along the whole length of the bay to the foot of Great Orme. This is the chief business thoroughfare, and here are to be found numerous shops and many of the public buildings of the town. The latter comprise several churches and chapels, the Library and News Room, and the Prince's Theatre. The Municipal Buildings and the Town Hall are on Lloyd Street, which branches off from Mostyn Street. The foundation stones of these buildings was laid by Lord Mostyn, in 1899.

Facing the sea is the Esplanade, which is backed by numerous hotels and other buildings that cater for the wel-

Llandudno Promenade and Pavilion.

fare and amusement of the visitors. The Pavilion and Pier lie under the shadow of the Great Orme. The latter was erected in 1875, at a cost of £30,000, and, with an approach that was added some years later, measures some 2,280 feet in length. The Pavilion, a fine building in which 3,000 persons can be seated, stands near the entrance to the Pier.

The "Happy Valley," presented to the town by Lord Mostyn as a Jubilee Gift in 1887, is a feature of Llandudno. It is situated on the side of Great Orme, a short distance beyond the Pier, and has been laid out with great taste. When the trees that have been planted here have grown a bit larger, the shade thrown by them will add to the attractions of the spot, as Llandudno and its neighbourhood are practically treeless.

A cave in the limestone cliff behind the town was explored in 1881. From the remains discovered then, it was seen that Llandudno was the home of human beings in pre-historic times. Not only were human bones found there, but also the teeth of cave-bears and of various domestic animals. Probably the cave formed the home of the bears before man took up his abode within its shelter. A curious find was that of a necklace of animals' teeth, which were bored for the passage of a string.

Several other remains of ancient days are situated in the neighbourhood of the town. Of the Cromlech called Letty'r Filiast, the hut sites and the rocking stones, we read in other chapters. In the same neighbourhood are remains of two singular rows of stones placed at right angles to each other, thus forming the shape of the letter "L." Many of the stones have been destroyed, or removed, but enough remain to show what it was like when complete. The avenue is called Gwylfa'r Ceirw, the High Road of the Deer, and tradition tells us that the stones formed a path by which the wild deer descended to a meadow below.

Llandudno is provided with a lifeboat, named the "Theodore Price," for the rescue of ships and sailors in danger on the coast. As is natural in so healthy a district, there are several convalescent homes in the town and neighbourhood. Of Marl we have read, and near it is a Children's Home in connection with the same hospitals. Ty'n-y-Coed Home for men, standing about two miles from the town, is also connected with the Birmingham Hospitals.

A Women's Sanatorium and Convalescent Home stands in Clonmel Street, in the town, and Shropshire invalids are sent to the Forrester Home, which was built under the provisions of the will of the late Lady Forrester. The "Sarah Nicol Memorial Hospital," or, as it is more generally known, the "Cottage Hospital," is supported by public subscriptions. There is also a Fever Hospital, which is under the control of the authorities of the town.

CHAPTER XIV.

Conway.

THE Municipal Borough of Conway is one of the two walled towns of the county. Viewed from a distance, the castle with its towers, and the walls with their round bastions, make a very imposing picture. It is said to be the finest specimen of a walled town of the middle ages in Europe. Even to-day, when most towns have overspread their ancient boundaries, Conway remains almost entirely within its walls as it did centuries ago.

The town is built upon the tidal estuary of the River Conwy and at high tide the river-mouth has the appearance of

a broad lake. In form Conway is an irregular triangle, said to be similar in shape to the Welsh harp, with the castle at the point. This point protrudes into the river channel, and to it the road and railway are led over the Suspension and Tubular Bridges.

The Suspension Bridge, the older of the two, is 327 feet in length, 32 feet in breadth, and is hung 18 feet above high water mark. It was designed and made by the famous engineer Telford, between the years 1822 and 1826, and over it was carried the Holyhead coach road, the crowning work of the great road-maker's career. The entrances to the bridge are placed between towers modelled on those of the castle, with which the whole structure harmonises. The chains on which the bridge is suspended are fastened at the castle end into the cliff on which that building stands, while the other ends are firmly fastened into rock.

The Tubular Bridge, which carries the railway over the river, was built by Stephenson. It consists of two ugly rectangular tubes, each 412 feet long, 25½ feet high in the middle, and 24½ feet at each end. The clear span of the bridge is 400 feet, which is only 60 feet less than the length of the chief spans of the Tubular Bridge across the Menai Straits.

The Conway ends of the tubes are fixed, but those on the opposite bank are free, and placed on rollers. The rollers allow the tubes to move twelve inches back and fro, so that the ironwork can expand and contract with the changes in temperature. The entrance towers on each side are very solid, but are not nearly as graceful as those of the Suspension Bridge. In fact, the whole bridge, useful and indispensable though it may be, is an ugly blot upon a graceful scene.

Conway is a very pretty town, the age of the walls, castle and houses adding to its beauty. The houses cluster on the steep slopes above the river, and there is no smoke from any

Conway Town and Castle.

factory to mar the scene. A little trade in the exportation of slates and the importation of timber is carried on. All sorts of ships, "even up to 500 tons, with sails of various hues, and hulls of many shapes and colours, may be seen working their way in or out, or lying in the river." Fishing vessels are numerous, those of the mussel gatherers being particularly picturesque and prominent.

Mussel-gathering has been a Conway industry for many centuries, even from the times of the Romans. In those days the fish were collected, not so much as articles of food, but for the pearls that were found within their shells. These pearls were very much liked and worn, and some of them were included in the Welsh Crown Jewels. Perhaps some of them yet form part of the Jewels belonging to the British Crown. Pearls are rarely found at the present time, for there is so much demand for mussels in Liverpool and other large towns, that the fish are not allowed to grow old enough to form the pearls within the shells.

The walls of the town were built at the same time as the Castle, and are still in very good repair. They are very thick, are embattled, and are strengthened by twenty-one half-round towers which project beyond their faces. There are three principal gateways, each defended by two strong flanking towers, Porth Isaf on the river face, Porth Uchaf on the west, and Porth y Felin on the south. Porth Castell, another gateway, is commanded by the castle, and the wall is further pierced by several openings.

One of the most interesting buildings in Conway is an old house known as Plas Mawr, the Great Mansion. It was built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Robert Wynne, who lies buried in the old and pretty church of the town. The house has a large number of rooms, some of which are decorated with panelling, fretted ceilings, old fireplaces, quaint carvings, and coats of arms, some of the arms bearing the

initials of Queen Elizabeth and the Earl of Leicester. The largest room is the great banqueting hall, which has a very beautiful ceiling. The house has been purchased by the Royal Cambrian Academy of Art, and in it the society holds an exhibition of pictures every year.

The inhabitants of Conway number about 5,000. This number is somewhat increased during the summer months, when many visitors make it their headquarters for their holidays.

Conway Church stands on part of the site of the old Abbey of Aber Conwy, which was built in 1185 by Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, a bronze statue of whom has been erected in Lancaster Square. The abbey was plundered by the soldiers of Henry III., who also set fire to several houses belonging to it. This impious act caused Welshmen great sorrow, as the Abbey contained many books of great value on the History of Wales. There are several fine tombs in the church, which is in the Decorated style of architecture, some of which are very old, and the church also contains a fine rood loft. It is interesting to note that the Curfew Bell is still rung at Conway.

The town of Conway really dates from the construction of the castle by Edward I., though no doubt a small village clustered round the abbey before this time. This was probably destroyed when the abbey was attacked, and not afterwards rebuilt until the erection of Edward's great fortress. The history of the town is, therefore, practically the history of the castle, and this we shall read about in the next chapter.

CHAPTER XV.

Conway Castle.

DURING the campaign against David, who led the Welsh after the death of his brother Llewelyn, the forces of Edward I. established themselves in a ring around Snowdonia, and in the end so hemmed in the fugitive prince that his escape proved impossible. One of the points occupied by the English was the angle of land lying between the Conwy Estuary and the sea, and here was erected one of the chain of castles built, or reconstructed, by Edward to keep in subjection the warlike and turbulent inhabitants of his newly-won lands. The architect for Conway Castle was Henry de Elreton, who also planned Carnarvon Castle, and £7,787 were spent in its construction. It stands on the point of the triangle formed by the walls of the town, and was so placed as to form part of the town's defences. Three sides of the castle were defended by water, and the obstacle placed by the water in the way of an enemy made it practically impregnable.

The castle is almost a parallelogram in shape, and is divided into an inner and outer court by means of a cross wall. It has eight lofty towers, each forty feet in diameter, which are joined by high and strong curtain walls. Four of them stand on the angles of the inner court, each with a lofty stair turret peering high above the walls. The two eastern towers, called the King's and Queen's Towers, stand the one on the south wall of the castle and the other on the north. The latter contains a small chapel, which has a very fine roof and a five-sided east end. The tower west of

Conway Castle.

the King's Tower is called the Broken Tower, the outer walls having fallen, leaving it but a mere shell. It has, however, been repaired, somewhat indifferently, of recent years.

The entrance into the Castle is on the west. A drawbridge had to be crossed, whence a covered way, defended by small towers, led to the main gate. On the right, or southern side of the outer court, stands Llewelyn's Hall, a high building 130 feet long, but now quite roofless. Underneath the hall were the cellars in which stores were kept, but the floor of the hall has fallen in, and the cellars are open to the sky. East of the hall stood the chief chapel of the castle.

Hardly was the castle built than Edward was forced to shelter within its walls and to submit to a siege by the Welshmen under the leadership of Madoc ab Llewelyn. There was no danger of capture by assault, as the walls defied the Welsh attack, but provisions ran low and submission or starvation would soon be the choice before Edward and his small garrison. An English force, belonging to the main body of troops, heard of the plight of Edward and the van, and marched to their relief. A pitched battle took place on January 24th, 1295, in which the Welsh were defeated and the castle relieved.

The next Royal visitor to Conway was Richard II., who returned that way from Ireland. Richard left Conway a prisoner in the hands of some of Henry Bolingbroke's friends, and at Flint Castle was forced to give up his Crown to that nobleman. Owen Glyndwr's nephews surprised and captured the castle in 1401, but it was soon recaptured by the English, under Hotspur and Prince Henry of England.

In the reign of James I., the castle was said to be "in ruin and decay," but it was strong enough in the reign of his son, Charles I., to be garrisoned for the King against Parliament. It was held for a time by a native of the county, Archbishop Williams, of York. Prince Rupert's lieutenant,

Sir John Owen, then took command of the garrison, but in 1646 the castle was captured by General Mytton, the leader of the Parliamentary forces in North Wales. Numbers of Irish soldiers assisted the Royalists to defend the castle, and it is said that when the garrison surrendered, General Mytton tied these soldiers back to back and threw them into the river.

When Charles II. came to the throne he gave the castle to the Earl of Conway, who partly destroyed the defences and stripped the building of its timber and lead. These he intended for his own use, but it is some satisfaction to know that the despoiler of such a noble building did not enjoy the use of the materials he carried away, as they were all lost at sea.

Many authors have written of the beauty of Conway Castle. One states "that with one exception a more beautiful castle never rose." "No painter could desire," wrote another, "a more picturesque object of its kind that Conway Castle. The graceful form of its towers and turrets, their varied groupings seen from different points, the softening progress of decay, the draping ivy filling up the breaches in the walls, and the noble situation, make Conway equal to any castle on the Rhine, Moselle, or Danube."

CHAPTER XVI.

Penmaenmawr.

PENMAENMAWR, a straggling town of some 3,500 inhabitants, stands some four and a half miles west of Conway. It is built in a deep, green hollow, guarded on the east by the Moel Llys, and on the west by the Penmaenmawr

Mountain. Really, the name Penmaenmawr is only given to the newer part of the place, the older part, that lying on the the west of the hollow being known as Penmaenan.

The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in quarrying building and paving stones from the sides of Penmaenmawr, and of Craig Llwyd, a hill to the south of the town. Tramways take the quarried stone to the piers and the railway for transport to various parts.

Penmaenmawr has of late years become a favourite seaside resort, as its situation is pleasant, the air is bracing, the beach is a good one for bathing, and there are numerous places of interest in the neighbourhood. The late Mr. W. E. Gladstone lived here during several summers, and this perhaps has helped to popularise the place as a summer resort.

The bold mountain of Penmaenmawr seems to bar the way to the west. Indeed, it was a matter of difficulty and danger to traverse it until a passable road was made in 1772 by an engineer named Sylvester. Complaints were loud at the danger of the road, and many accidents occurred. Sylvester's road was improved in 1827 by that great road-maker Telford, and after Telford came Stephenson with his iron road. He partly rounded the headland with his railway, and where he could not get round he drove a tunnel, through which the railway still runs.

The district contains many relics of ancient times. Perhaps the chief is the ancient British post of Braich y Ddinas, which stands on the conical peak of Dinas Penmaen. It consists of a number of circular huts contained within rude loose stone walls of good height and thickness. The post is considered by some authorities as one of the strongest of the hill forts of North Wales.

On the summit of Moelfre, a hill a little inland from Penmaenmawr, are Y Meini Hirion, the Long Stones. These consist of ten upright stones, set in a circle, with smaller

Penmaenmawr.

stones set in between. They are perhaps connected with the religious ceremonies of the ancients, or mark the site of some great hero's grave. On Moelfre also is a carnedd, or mound, where are three upright stones set in the form of a triangle. An old legend tells us that they were originally three women, who were changed into stone for winnowing corn on a Sunday morning.

South of Moelfre runs the road from Aber to Talycafn, on the banks of the Conwy. It was once a Roman road leading to the Roman station of *Conovium*, at the place now called Caerhun. A Roman mile-stone, now in the British Museum, was discovered near the road in 1883. It marked the eighth mile from *Conovium*, and letters carved upon it state that it was set up in 119 A.D. A little west of Bwlch y Ddeufan, through which the road passes, is a Cromlech which has three uprights and a capstone measuring about eight feet by seven feet.

Dwygyfylchi stands in a little green nook east of Moel Llys, on a mountain stream which flows through "Fairy Glen," and over a pretty waterfall. On the other side of Penmaenmawr, and west of the mountain is Llanfairfechan, a town of some 3,000 inhabitants. It stands in a sheltered and well-wooded spot, and, like so many of the villages of the North Wales Coast, is a rising seaside resort. The town is supplied with water from a reservoir in the Valley of Glan Sais, which is situated 1,000 feet above the level of the sea.

Penmaenmawr overlooks a tract, which, like Cantref y Gwaelod, was covered by the sea in the first half of the sixth century. "The story told of this sunken land is, that King Helig was feasting with his lords and ladies where now lies the sandbank bearing his name. The cellarer had gone down to broach another cask, when he rushed up the steps in terror at finding the castle under water.

"He shouted, "The sea! the sea is on us!' The panic-

stricken revellers fled for their lives, and as they issued from the palace heard the roar of the waves. They could see the gleam of the manes of the white horses as they overleaped the sea-wall. Half a mile from Penmaenmawr is Wylfa Head. Here the survivors gathered and looked over a tumbling sea that covered what once had been fair pastures and quiet homesteads. The lost land of Helig stretches between Puffin Island and Penmaenmawr, and the Lavan Sandbank covers a portion of it."

CHAPTER XVII.

Aber.

THIS seaside village, whose full name is Abergwyngregin, or Aber of the White Shells, stands near the mouth of Afon Rhaiadr Fawr. Its sands, noted for cockles, though great in area when the tide is out, are not well suited for bathing, boating, or walking, the reason, perhaps, why it has not made such rapid strides forward, as a seaside resort, as other North Wales Coast villages. Still numbers of people do visit Aber, as it is a convenient centre for the Falls and other objects of interest in the neighbourhood.

Afon Rhaiadr Fawr is formed by the junction of several small streams that rise on the slopes of Y Foel Fras and other heights in its vicinity. Chief among them are Afon Anafon, Afon Goch, and Afon Gam. During its course Afon Anafon flows through Llyn yr Afon, which stands in Pant y Mynach, to the north of Y Foel Fras.

These streams flow through narrow valleys, and their combined waters enter the coastal plain, which here is rather narrow, through a bold and narrow gorge. To the east of the gorge rises the wooded slopes of Maes y Gaer, and to the

Aber Valley Cascade.

west the higher and bare sides of Ffrith Ddu. Being a purely agricultural district the inhabitants are mainly occupied in farming. A few, however, are employed in the Margarine Works, which stand on the site once occupied by the slate works, while others eke out a living by fishing and gathering cockles on the Lavan Sands.

The Aber Waterfalls are about three miles from the village and are situated, one on Afon Gam and the other on Afon Goch. The former is not so picturesque as the latter, and its volume of water is not nearly so great. The Afon Goch fall, known as Rhaiadr Fawr, is highly picturesque, and the water descends from a height of 170 feet, in a series of leaps, or cataracts, the lowest of the leaps being 120 feet from the basin at the foot of the fall. After heavy rains great quantities of water flow over the fall, which owes its reputation to its height and volume. "Walls of rock, from whose narrow ledges spring a few trees, flank it on both sides. A path leads to the bottom of the fall, and given a fair force of wind and water, you may enjoy a shower-bath at some distance from the basin into which the water leaps."

Aber, in the days of the Welsh Princes, contained a Royal residence, and a wooded and flat-topped mound called Y Mwd, which stands between the road and the stream, was the site of the small castle built by Llewelyn the Great. Here Llewelyn imprisoned an enemy named William de Braose, whom he had captured during one of his expeditions.

Llewelyn treated de Braose with great kindness, and in time set him at liberty. After de Braose was free, Llewelyn discovered that his late prisoner had done him a very great wrong, and determined to punish him when he could lay hands on him again. Llewelyn held a banquet during Easter 1230, and to this he invited de Braose. De Braose did not know that Llewelyn had discovered his evil deed and came to

the banquet, but when he arrived the Welsh Prince placed him in bonds, and afterwards hanged him as punishment for his wickedness.

Llewelyn ab Gruffydd also lived in Aber Castle, and it is said that he was at this castle when he received summons to do homage to Edward I. Fearing for his safety, Llewelyn refused to go, and in that manner began the struggle which ended in the death of our last native prince and in the loss of our national independence. His brother, David, must have resided here, as he sought refuge on the hills of this district in his last vain and despairing effort against the might of England. Nearly one hundred yards to the east of Y Mwd, and at the foot of Maes y Gaer, is another ancient castle, in good preservation, and used as a farmhouse, called Pen-y-Bryn.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Bangor and Port Penrhyn.

BANGOR, a municipal borough, a market town and a Cathedral City, with a population of 12,000 inhabitants, is one of the chief places in Carnarvonshire and North Wales. It stands in a hollow facing the Menai Straits and lies between two hills, one of which is rocky and broken and the other rising in a gentle slope. The railway, before it reaches the city from the east, has to pass under the former, and a tunnel under the latter carries the line on its way to Carnarvon. The city stretches from the railway to the shore, a distance of about a mile. The residential and newer part on the slopes of the hill to the west is called Upper Bangor. Lower Bangor lies between the Cathedral and the shore, while parts on the shore itself are known as Garth and Hirael.

Bangor is a prosperous and growing town. It has a brisk trade in general commerce, has a shipbuilding industry, and, through Port Penrhyn, carries on a large slate exporting trade. Port Penrhyn was constructed by Lord Penrhyn in order to provide facilities for shipping the slates quarried at the famous Penrhyn Quarries at Bethesda. Bangor is also a favourite resort of tourists, owing to its pleasant situation and to the number of trips to places of interest that can be made easily from the town.

The entry to the port of Bangor and Port Penrhyn is safe and easy, and the port forms a safe harbour of refuge. The chief manufacture is that of school slates, tombstones, chimney pieces, and other articles which are manufactured from slate. Brewing and currying are also carried on, and there is a brisk trade in coal and timber. Port Dinorwic, a thriving village and port, stands four and a half miles away. The harbour is convenient and well sheltered, and the port exports large quantities of slates from the Dinorwic Quarries.

Bangor is the seat of the University College of North Wales, one of the three colleges forming the University of Wales. The college is now situated in the old Penrhyn Arms Hotel, which occupies a site on the shore between Hirael and Port Penrhyn. The new college now in course of erection consists of a magnificent pile of buildings situated on the crest of a hill in Upper Bangor, overlooking the town. The foundation stone was laid by his late Majesty King Edward VII., during his visit to North Wales in 1907. The ceremony was a brilliant one, and scenes of great rejoicing were witnessed. North Welshmen turned out in great numbers to welcome the King, and all were pleased when his Majesty honoured the college and all Wales by knighting the head of the college, Principal Reichel.

Bangor Normal College has been for years a training college for schoolmasters, and has this year (1910) accepted

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female students for training as well. The North Wales Training College for Schoolmistresses also stands in the town, and there are departments for the training of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses in connection with the University College. There is also an Independent and a Baptist College, where students are trained for the ministry. The Grammar School, founded by order of Queen Elizabeth, in 1537, formerly stood on the site of a convent of White Friars, which was broken up at the Dissolution of the Monasteries. For this reason it is called the Friars School. It is now an Intermediate School, and is carried on in new buildings in Upper Bangor.

Penrhyn Castle, two miles from Bangor, is a modern building, built in the Norman Style of Architecture. From a distance its square keep, five stories high, and tall turrets, have a very fine appearance. The Castle is built of dark Anglesey marble, and in one of the rooms is a bedstead made out of slate, a substance that is also used in many of the outbuildings. Around the castle is a well-wooded park, seven miles in circumference, through which the Ogwen flows into the sea.

Though Penrhyn Castle is a modern building, it stands on the site of an ancient and famous seat. It is said that a palace, the home of Roderic, the grandson of King Cadwaladr, stood here in the eighth century. In the time of Queen Elizabeth it was the home of the Griffith family. Sir Piers Griffith, the last male of this line, was the only North Welshman that fitted out a ship to fight against the Spanish Armada. This son of Penrhyn was a true sea-rover, and continued to fight the Spaniards after peace was declared. For this he was fined so heavily by King James I. that he had to sell his estates to pay the fine. The old house, however, was bought back into the family by Archbishop Williams, he who fought so bravely at Conway during the Civil War.

Among the many treasures preserved in Penrhyn Castle is a famous Hirlas horn. It is said that it once belonged to Sir Piers Griffith. Some think it is still older, and that it is the Hirlas horn, to which Owen Cyfeilog, the Poet-prince of Powys, referred when he wrote his famous ode in the twelfth century. A later poet—Mrs. Hemans—has certainly sung about it in a stirring and warlike poem.

CHAPTER XIX.

Bangor Cathedral.

BANGOR Cathedral, like the Cathedrals of Llandaff and St. David's, stands on low ground. Such a site does not add to the dignity of any building, and, when as is the case with Bangor Cathedral, it is surrounded by large trees, an imposing aspect is not obtainable. The trees, however, add considerably to the general view.

The Cathedral has been restored within the last fifty years and covers a much greater area than that covered by the first church that stood on the site. Its present outline and area are those of the church destroyed by Owen Glyndwr, in 1402. It contains work in the Norman, Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular Styles of Architecture. These various styles show that restorations and repairs have been frequent in the history of the building, and at times the damage done was so great that actual rebuilding was necessary.

The last restoration was conducted by the celebrated architect, Sir Gilbert Scott, who so magnificently restored the beautiful Cathedral at St. David's. Sir Gilbert began his work in 1866, and finished about 1875. So carefully did he do his work that much of the original masonry was dis-

Bangor Cathedral.

covered and used by him in place of more modern and inferior work.

He wrote in his report : " This exhuming and restoring to their places the fragments of the beautiful work of the 13th century, reduced to ruin by Owen Glyndwr; used as mere rough material by Henry VII. ; and rediscovered by us four and a half centuries after their reduction to ruin—is one of the most interesting facts I have met with in the course of my experience." In the same report he says that the discoveries showed remarkably " the evidences of the three-fold history of the church—its reconstruction after Norman devastation early in the twelfth century, its enlargement in the thirteenth century, and its restoration in the time of Henry VII."

The Cathedral consists of a western tower, nave, aisles, a central tower, with north and south transepts and presbytery. An addition on the north side contains the Cathedral library with a chapter-room in the story above. The foundations of an additional building were discovered on the east side of the north transept during the restoration. The nave is 114 feet in length and has six arches in the Perpendicular Style. In each aisle are six windows, of three lights, those of the north aisle being in the Perpendicular Style, and those of the south aisle in the Decorated. Above the arches is the clerestory, which is pierced on each side by six plain, three-lighted windows.

The west tower, built in 1532 by Bishop Skevington, is of three stages, and is 60 feet in height. The central tower is an incomplete addition made at the last restoration, and, as yet, has only been carried just above the roof. The choir has been restored to its appearance in 1496. The style of the windows is Perpendicular, and the stalls and pavement are new, though the latter has been tiled with a reproduction, as far as possible, of the old tiles. Some of the old tiles have been arranged at the west end of the north aisle. The roof

of the choir is of rich oak vaulting, decorated in gold and blue, and the transepts have been restored to their original Decorated Style.

The wall around and above the east window has been beautifully painted. In the upper part appears our Lord in Glory, below are the figures of saints, on the north wall are angels and the prophets, and on the south wall are the holy apostles. The east window, of ten lights, contains stained glass illustrating incidents in the life of our Lord, and the stained glass of the south window illustrates the Acts of the Apostles. The whole of the decorative work was the gift of Lord Penrhyn.

Behind the High Altar is a beautifully carved oak reredos, presented by Mrs. Symes in memory of her brother, Colonel Holt. In the central panel is a figure of our Lord in Glory, and the side panels represent the four Evangelists and the four Heralds of the Word. Another gift to the Cathedral was the Bishop's Throne, a handsome structure presented in 1880 by the Freemasons of North Wales.

All that is left of pre-Norman work is a stone slab with carved plait work on it. It lies at the west end of the north aisle, and as it was used as a sharpener for weapons, most of the carved work has been worn away. Little remains of the Norman Cathedral, a rude round-headed window, a buttress, and some of the lower courses of the walls and bases of the pillars being all that have survived.

There are not many tombs in the Cathedral. Two of fourteenth century date are situated in the choir, close to the tower piers, that on the north side being the tomb of Bishop Anian Sais, who died in 1328, and the other on the south, that of one Tudor ab Grono ab Tudor. On the south wall of the south transept is an inscription, which states that the body of Owen Gwynedd is interred within the wall in a stone coffin. A tablet on the wall of the north transept perpetuates the memory of the famous Welsh bard, the Rev. Goronwy Owen.

CHAPTER XX.

History of the Cathedral and See of Bangor.

THE history of Bangor Cathedral is of great interest, as few buildings of its kind have suffered so severely at the hands of invading armies, and has undergone so many vicissitudes. The wars between the Welsh and the Saxons, between the Welsh and the Normans, or English, and the war of Owen Glyndwr, all have left their marks upon the building.

The See of Bangor was founded in the sixth century by Deiniol, the son of Dunawd, a prince of North Britain, who had been driven into Wales by the Picts. Deiniol, who had been granted lands by Cadwallon Law Hir, established a monastic community here, and Dunawd established a similar institution at Bangor Iscoed. The latter was burnt by Ethelfrith in 607, who massacred most of the monks, the few that remained fleeing to Bangor Fawr, which by this time had been made the seat of a bishop by Maelgwn Gwynedd.

The History of the Cathedral and See, for centuries after its formation, is hidden in the mists of time, and we only know that the Cathedral existed during this period by incidental references in historical manuscripts. It is mentioned in the eighth century, that a Bishop of Bangor introduced the observance of the Roman Easter into North Wales. Again the Cathedral is referred to in the time of King Edgar of England, and the names of some of the bishops are preserved.

Shortly before the Norman Conquest of England the See was held by Madoc Min, or the Fox. He was a scoundrel

and a traitor, and is said to have obtained the assassination, in 1021, of Llewelyn ab Seisyllt, King of Wales. Later he conspired with Harold Godwin to procure the death of Gruffydd ab Llewelyn, and for the payment of 300 head of cattle betrayed him into the hands of the Saxons. When the treacherous deed was fulfilled, and Gruffydd's head had been sent to Edward the Confessor, Harold refused payment, the authorship of the deed leaked out, and the wicked bishop fled to Ireland to escape from the anger of the people. The ship in which he sailed was wrecked, and he alone, of all on board, was drowned. A fitting end for such a traitor.

Bangor was burned by a Norman army in 1071, and in 1092 the Normans managed to force the election of one of their own nation as bishop. It was the policy of the Normans to capture the Welsh Church, hoping thereby to influence the Welsh people through the Norman bishops and priests. This Norman bishop was named Hervé, but he was never accepted by the Welsh prince or the Welsh people, and, after trying in vain for years to get them to acknowledge him, he left Bangor.

The See remained vacant until 1120, when a Welshman named David was appointed, but before he was consecrated he had to acknowledge the supremacy of the Archbishop of Canterbury. King Stephen, in 1140, appointed another Welshman, named Meurig. Owen Gwynedd and his brother Cadwaladr objected to his election, but in vain. Meurig died in 1161, and the See remained vacant until 1177, when Guianus, or Guy Rufus, was elected. It was during Guy Rufus's time that Archbishop Baldwin, accompanied by the famous Welshman, Giraldus Cambrensis (Gerald the Welshman) preached the Crusade through Wales. The Archbishop made his tour an excuse whereby he might celebrate High Mass in all the cathedrals and principal churches in Wales, thus asserting the supremacy of Canterbury.

The Archbishop arrived at Bangor in rather a bad temper, as he had not been at all successful in his double mission. He was met by Bishop Guy and Rhodri, the son of Owen Gwynedd, but though he preached the Crusade most eloquently, and Rhodri, out of courtesy, advised the youths of his family and the district to take the Cross, very few did so. Even the Bishop of Bangor only did so after great persuasion, and we do not read that he afterwards carried out his promise to go on the Crusade.

Owen Gwynedd had been excommunicated by Thomas á Beckett, because he had married and refused to put away his cousin Christiana. He died while under the ban, but in spite of this had been buried in the Cathedral before the High Altar. The irate Archbishop noticed this, and ordered the bishop to see that Owen's body be removed and buried in unconsecrated ground. The bishop promised, of course, but conveniently forgot to remove the body when the Archbishop went away, rightly thinking that Rhodri present could do him more harm than the Archbishop absent.

Guy died in 1190, and several bishops succeeded him. One, named Robert, was carried away by King John in 1211, and was not released until a ransom of 200 of the famous hawks of North Wales had been paid. John's army burned the city, but the Cathedral erected in place of the one destroyed in 1071 was not harmed. In 1237 Bishop Richard was appointed. He, with the Bishop of St. Asaph, became guarantee in 1241 to Henry III. for submission of David, Prince of North Wales. The diocese suffered greatly during the wars of that period, and on one occasion the bishop was forced to flee to the Abbey of St. Albans for refuge. He returned, and died at Bangor in 1267.

Richard's successor was Anian, who died in 1305. Anian was a great favourite with Edward I., and it was he who baptised the infant Prince of Wales at Carnarvon Castle. The

Cathedral was destroyed by fire during his time, and he at once commenced its restoration, the beautiful Decorated work still remaining being due to him. Anian also deserves remembrance because he drew up a service book, or missal, for use at the Cathedral, which has since been known as the "Use of Bangor." We must not confuse him with Anian Sais, who held the bishopric between the years 1309 and 1328.

The Cathedral, restored by Anian and his successors, was destroyed by Owen Glyndwr in 1402, when Richard Young (1400-1404) was bishop. This bishop formed one of a mission sent by King Henry IV. to Germany to explain why King Richard II. was dethroned. After Glyndwr's destruction, which was very complete, the Cathedral remained in ruins for nearly a century.

Bishop Deane (1496-1500) commenced the work of restoration by rebuilding the choir. The work was continued by Bishop Skevington, who was also known as Skirvington and Pace. He held the See during the years 1509 to 1533, and rebuilt the nave and transepts and built the western tower. During this restoration, or, more properly, rebuilding, much of the former work was hidden, not to come to light until the last restoration under Sir Gilbert Scott.

Bishop Bulkeley (1542-1553) was a man of entirely different type from the former. He plundered the Cathedral, but seems to have repented, as he left a sum of money by his will for repairing the building. An old writer says of him: "It matters not much had he never been born . . for he spoyled the bishoprick and sold the five bells; being so officious that he would go down to the sea to see them shipped; which, in my mind, amounted to a second selling of them . . he was himself suddenly deprived of his sight, who had deprived the tower of Bangor of the tongue thereof." An-

other writer tells us that he was suddenly stricken blind as he turned away from the shore.

New bells were bought for the tower by Bishop Rowlands (1598-1616) and he also seems to have given the nave and transepts new ceilings of timber. The Cathedral suffered greatly during the Civil War. All the wood-work was destroyed, the stained glass was shattered, and the figures on the monuments were broken. After the Restoration some repairs were made, but the building remained in very poor condition for many years afterwards. Some attempts at restoration were made between 1824 and 1827, but these only made the general appearance of the structure much worse. In this state it continued, with an ugly wooden screen dividing the interior into two parts, until its complete careful and beautiful restoration by Sir Gilbert Scott in the second half of the last century.

CHAPTER XXI.

The Menai Straits and its Bridges.

THE Menai Straits separates Carnarvonshire from the island county of Anglesey. For nearly the whole length of twelve miles the scenery is of a quiet and very pleasing character. The hills, that from Conway to Bangor, have never been more than a mile or so from the coast, run further inland, and the fertile stretches extend to the foothills of the Snowdonian Mountains. At some parts, the shore, especially on the Anglesey side, is so lined with houses as to give the appearance of a long village. Between the houses, the banks are wooded down to the water's edge, with here and there a mass of rock to vary the scene.

In olden days people could only cross the Straits by means of ferry-boats. The most famous of the ferries was the one at Moel y Don, where Edward I. constructed a bridge of boats to enable his soldiers to cross over the Straits. He made the bridge too short, so when the rising tide floated the loose end, a party of soldiers that had already crossed the bridge was cut off from the rest of the army. Their plight was noticed by the Welsh, who at once attacked them so fiercely that only a few succeeded in escaping with their lives. Though two splendid bridges cross the Straits, there are still ferries plying across at several points.

The passage of the Straits by ferry during rough weather was an excursion of great danger. It is said that between the years 1664 and 1842 no less than 180 persons lost their lives while crossing this narrow strip of water. At length public interest was aroused to the danger, and the Government took the matter under consideration. Nothing, however, was done until Telford had constructed his great Coach Road to the shores of the Straits, and, to carry the road into Anglesey, on its route to Holyhead, built the Suspension Bridge, which brought him so much fame.

Telford was his own engineer for the bridge, and he decided that a spot called Ynys y Moch was the site for his great undertaking. Here the rocky shores on each side made it possible for a roadway to be carried across the water, high enough for ships under full sail to pass beneath.

The bridge is hung on sixteen huge chains, which were floated on a raft placed in the centre of the Straits, and raised into their proper positions by means of capstans and pulleys. When raised the chains were firmly bolted together, passed through the rocks at each end and then securely fastened. The chains are carried over the stonework pillars on rollers, which allow them to expand or contract with the changes in temperature without strain on the iron or stone work.

Menai Bridges and Straits.

The double roadway is made of timber, which rests on iron joists hung from the chains above, and the sides are made safe by a high trellis work of iron. The bridge shakes a little when a cart, or even a horse, passes over it, but the swaying is not enough to do any damage. A terrible storm that occurred in 1839 did a good deal of damage to the roadway, but since that time the bridge has not met with any serious injury. It was finished in 1821, and was opened for traffic by the crossing of the Holyhead Mail Coach.

The Suspension Bridge cost £120,000 to make. It stretches from pier to pier for a distance of 579 feet, with a total length of roadway of 1,000 feet. The roadway stands 100 feet above high water mark, and the height of the main piers is 153 feet. Each chain used is 1,714 feet in length and weighs 121 tons. The total iron used weighs 2,168 tons. When we consider these facts and the difficulties attending the construction of the bridge, we do not wonder that the people of that time thought the building of the bridge was a magnificent undertaking to accomplish with success.

The other great bridge across the Straits, the Britannia Tubular Bridge, was constructed by the famous engineer Robert Stephenson. Little did the cheering thousands that witnessed the opening of the Suspension Bridge think that in thirty years a still more remarkable structure would rise, but a mile away, to share its glory and rob it of much of its importance.

The difficulties attending the construction of a bridge strong enough to carry a train over to Anglesey were for a time thought to be too great to be overcome. Stephenson, with his plans for a bridge made of iron tubes, solved the difficulty, and "the most peculiar and wonderful bridge in the world" was the result.

Like Telford, Stephenson chose upon a spot where the natural features of the site came to his aid. In the middle of

the Straits stood a rock, on which one of the pillars carrying the iron tubes could be built. The bridge was begun in May, 1849, and after the expenditure of £600,000, was finished and opened on March 18th, 1850.

The bridge consists of two parallel tubes of wrought iron plates strongly fastened together by more than two million iron rivets. The tubes are very much strengthened by means of hollow cells placed along the top and the bottom. On each shore they are held up by land towers and strong abutments. In the centre is the Britannia Tower, which rises to a height of 230 feet. The land towers are 190 feet high and are joined to the abutments by tubes 230 feet long. The distance between a land tower and the Britannia Tower is 460 feet. Through one tube run all the "Up" trains, while all the "Down" trains run through the other.

The iron tubes were built together on timber platforms placed on the shore at high water mark, and when finished were floated on these platforms to the site. Powerful hydraulic presses lifted them into position, and as fast as they were lifted the masonry of the piers was built in order to support their weight. The presses lifted the tubes at the rate of six feet a day, and it was found that so carefully were they constructed that they fitted almost exactly into position. The tubes are fixed in the Britannia Tower, but the shore ends are supported on rollers to allow for the expansion and contraction of the iron. Two huge figures of lions guard the entrance on either side.

Two such bridges, so closely placed together, are rarely, if ever, to be seen. Telford and Stephenson need no other monuments of their life's work than these bridges, which are the result of their energy and genius. Telford's bridges at Conway and over the Menai are very graceful and very beautiful, but the railway bridges are ugly, and, being tubular,

nothing is seen of the country when one passes through them.

Englynion Pont Menai.

THE following verses were written in 1839 by a Carnarvonshire poet, whose bardic name was Dewi Wyn o Eifion. They, of course, refer to the Suspension Bridge, and give us an idea of the feelings the bridge inspired in the minds of Carnarvonshire people of that time. The verses have been copied from an old Welsh periodical named "Drysorfa Henafiaethol" :—

I.

UCHELGAR uwch y weilgi,—gyr y byd
Ei gerbydau drosti;
Dewch chwithau, llongau y lli',
Ewch o dàn ei chadwyni.

II.

Gwêl foddi'r saith gelfyddyd,—uthr foddi'r
Saith ryfeddod hefyd!
Ac o'r iawnfalch gywreinfyd,
Pen y gamp yw hòn i gyd.

III.

Dwy heol ydyw o haiarn,—praffwaith
Priffordd hardd a chadarn;
Gwiw orsedd ag awyr-sarn,
Safed fyth,—sef hyd y farn.

CHAPTER XXII.

Carnarvon.

CARNARVON, the capital of the county, a municipal borough, and a market town, stands on the mouth of the River Seiont, just within the western entrance to the Menai Straits. It is a walled town, but, unlike Conway,

has overflowed beyond its ancient walls. Built round the castle commenced by Edward I., it has long been one of the chief towns in North Wales.

That a town existed here before Edwardian times we know from reference made to one in pre-Edwardian writings. Hugh of Chester built a castle here, and from it was dated a charter granted by Llewelyn the Great to the Priory of Penmon in 1221. The existence of a castle necessarily means the existence of some sort of settlement in its vicinity. It is thought that a village or a town stood here even in Roman times, a settlement that was under the protection of the Romans, who kept the station *Segontium* solely for the use of the Roman soldiers.

The ancient station of *Segontium* stands about a quarter of a mile from the Menai Straits. It formed an oblong of great extent, apparently about six acres in area. It was placed on the summit of rising ground, which sloped from it in all directions. The remains of some of the walls may still be seen near Llanbeblig, and a road runs through the centre of the old encampment. Many relics of the Roman occupation have been found upon the site from time to time, all of which have been carefully preserved. The foundations and some of the walls of a small Roman fort have been traced near the steep bank of the Seiont a short distance from the castle. It is thought that this fort was intended to cover a landing place on the Seiont during the time of high water.

Carnarvon is a prosperous and busy town. The inhabitants are engaged in the shipping trade, in fishing, in the manufacture of sundry articles, and in providing for the wants of large numbers of visitors. A quay alongside the castle, at the river's mouth, and the new basin north of the town on the shores of the Straits, give abundant facilities for the loading and unloading of the ships that come to the port.

Carnarvon.

The chief export trade of the town is in slate, which is shipped in large quantities. The slates exported include roofing and writing slates and articles manufactured from that rock. Some copper-ore is also exported. The chief imports are timber, grain and coal. Carnarvon is a bonded port, and for this reason wines are sometimes imported directly from Lisbon and Cadiz. Much of the trade is coastal, but there is also a small foreign trade with the United States and Canada.

The fishing industry gives employment to many of the inhabitants, and during recent years has been greatly developed. The making of slates and the preparation of slates, enamelled and otherwise, for mantelpieces, &c., form the chief manufactures of the town. There are also engineering works, iron-foundries, ship and boat-building and repairing yards, tanneries and paper and printing works, so that Carnarvon is one of the busiest industrial centres in North Wales.

The town walls were built at the same time as the castle, and their plan is roughly of the shape of the letter "D." They join the castle, which forms the base of the letter, and are about half a mile in circumference. The straight side of the letter runs from the Eagle Tower in a northerly direction as far as a small turret called Twr y Gloch. From Twr y Gloch they run eastward to form the top of the letter, and then, curving round to the south, join the castle again near the Queen's Gate. Within the walls the streets are arranged almost in straight lines, but without, the same orderliness is not observed.

Apart from the castle there is no building of any great interest in the town. The chief public buildings are the prison for the county, the County Hall, where the Assize Courts are held, and the Guild Hall, which was rebuilt over a gateway in 1874. Twt Hill, a height running behind the town, is a favourite walk. It is only some 192 feet above the

sea-level, but a splendid bird's eye view of the town and surrounding district may be obtained from its summit. The Esplanade, which runs along the shores of the Menai, is another favourite promenade.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Carnarvon Castle.

CARNARVON CASTLE, like that of Conway, was one of the new fortresses built to overawe the Welsh. Henry de Elreton was again the architect, and the cost of construction came to £6,621. Soon after its completion it was surprised by the Welsh in 1294, and its careless constable, Roger de Pulesdon, paid for his unpreparedness with his life. The castle was of course destroyed, but as soon as the rebellion under Madoc ab Llewelyn was put down, its reconstruction was commenced. By 1299 it was finished, and some £4,393 were spent in making good the damage done.

The castle stands upon the site of a former castle, which was built by Hugh of Chester. The site occupies a strong position on the right bank of the River Seiont, which guards it upon the south. To the west is the Menai Straits, and round the other two sides ran a deep moat, or ditch.

In plan the castle is like a long, narrow oval, and was at one time divided into two wards, or courts, by a cross wall. This wall has long since disappeared, but the positions of the court can be determined by the difference in level, as the outer, or eastern, ward, is slightly higher than the inner court. The castle has a grand and imposing appearance. Numbers of many sided towers rise from the walls, and as each of

Carnarvon Castle.

these is crowned by a light turret, the effect is very graceful. The walls are built of limestone, with mouldings, doorways, and bands of decorative masonry of red sandstone.

The principal gateway, flanked by two massive towers, and known as the King's Gateway, faces to the north, almost opposite Castle Street, and is reached over a bridge. In olden times a drawbridge crossed the moat, which, when danger threatened, was raised to cover and strengthen the gateway. Above the entrance is a statue of Edward in the act of drawing his sword, placed there, perhaps, to warn the warlike Welshmen of the danger of rebelling against the king.

It must have been an almost impossible task for an enemy to force his way through this entrance. Even when the drawbridge had been lowered, or cut away, and the massive gate forced, there still remained four strong gratings, or portcullises, to be passed before the passage was won. The grooves through which the portcullises were lowered from the chamber above the entrance are still to be seen.

Within the walls stood the buildings and apartments of the castle. Here were the Great, or Banqueting Hall, the kitchen, where food was prepared, and the chapel, in which the garrison worshipped. All these have been swept away, but their sites are known and marked. The State apartments, where Royal or other important visitors were housed, stood in the western portion of the castle, overlooking the Seiont, and all the towers were provided with suites of rooms for the accommodation of the residents and visitors. Galleries, pierced with loopholes, run through the thickness of the walls, and from them the archers could fire their arrows at besiegers in comparative safety. The walls were battlemented, and on them the garrison gathered to repel any attempt at carrying the castle by assault.

The Eagle Tower is the most famous of the towers of the castle. It stands at the very end of the castle on the west,

and overlooks the mouth of the river. Its height and beauty make it a prominent object, and it has three turrets, each of which can be ascended by means of a staircase. On the wall is the figure of an eagle, which has given the tower its name. For many years it was thought that Edward of Carnarvon, the first English Prince of Wales, was born in a little room in this tower. The room is still pointed out to visitors, and on the glass of a small window is a representation of the Prince of Wales' Feathers. Learned men have discovered that this tower was not built when Edward was born. So, though he was born somewhere within the precints of the castle, he could not have been born in the little room shown.

The south-west tower is known as the Queen's Tower. It is twelve-sided in form, and was roofed and floored about twenty years ago. From it a gallery runs to the Chamberlain's Tower, and the windows in the inner wall of the gallery looked into the Banqueting Hall, which was built against the curtain. The Chamberlain's Tower stands on the angle between the two courts, but within the outer ward, and is smaller in size than either the Eagle or the Queen's tower.

Following the curtain westwards the next tower is the Black Tower, south-east of which is the Queen's Gateway, flanked by large towers or bastions. The gate was approached by a drawbridge, which, when lowered, rested upon an outwork beyond the moat. Tradition tells us that from this gateway the infant prince was shown to the Welsh people by his father, Edward I.

On an angle south of the Queen's Gateway stands the Dungeon Tower, in which was imprisoned a famous writer, William Prynne. The Granary Tower stands between the last and the main gateway. It contains large cellars and several ranges of rooms. The tower was repaired in 1883 and the hoisting place above the grain store was restored.

The remaining tower is called the Well Tower, and from it water was conveyed into the kitchen through lead pipes. It stands on the curtain wall of the inner court, between the Eagle Tower and the main gateway, and a small postern in its walls led to a drawbridge over the moat.

Carnarvon Castle, like Caerphilly Castle, in Glamorganshire, and most Edwardian Castles, was built at a period when the need for such strong fortresses was passing away. Consequently, it has no long record of sieges connected with it, and its history is not a very stirring one. We have already read of its capture and destruction in 1294, but the new castle does not seem to have been again the object of attack until the beginning of the fifteenth century. Then Owen Glyndwr tried twice to take it, but each time in vain. When Henry VIII. was king it was very much out of repair, and in 1540 and following years it was restored.

During the Civil War it was held for the King. The Royalist governor, Lord Byron, defended it bravely, but was forced to surrender to the Parliamentary forces, probably through lack of provisions. This took place in 1646, and in 1660 an order was made to demolish the castle. Fortunately the order was not carried out, and the grim relic of the past has been preserved to us. It is now the property of the King, and is being well looked after by the officers of the Crown.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Beddgelert, Tremadoc, Portmadoc, and Criccieth.

BEDDGELERT, Tremadoc, and Portmadoc, all stand in the Basin of the Glaslyn. The old borough town of Criccieth stands not far away, so it also will be noticed in this chapter.

Beddgelert from the Pass.

Beddgelert stands at the confluence of the brook Colwyn with the Glaslyn in a spot of great beauty. Here a "wealth of meadow and woodland and sparkling water," surrounded by high mountains, form an almost unrivalled scene. Chief among the mountains rise Moel Hebog and Yr Aran, and south of the village lies the famous Pass of Aberglaslyn. With such natural attractions to recommend it, it is no wonder that Beddgelert is a favourite haunt of tourists.

The village has few industries. Agricultural pursuits and the manganese works, copper mines and slate quarries are the only centres of industry available to the inhabitants. Apart from its scenery it has no interest, save that it was once the site of the monastery and that it is supposed to be the burial place of Llewelyn's legendary hound, Gelert.

Gelert.

O'R helfa ar ei fuan farch,
Llewelyn ddaeth i'w lŷs,
Gan seinio'i gorn, ac ato daeth
Ei deulu oll ar frys:
Pan welodd wedd ei rïan lân,
A'i gwenau hawddgar hi,
"Pa le mae Gelert?" ebe ef,
"Pa le mae 'mhlentyn i?"

"Paham na ddaw y ddau yn awr
A chroesaw mawr i mi?"
"Mae'th fab mewn hun—a thybiais i
Fod Gelert, gyda thi."
"Gad imi wel'd fy anwyl fab
A'i wasgu at fy mron;
Fy nhrysor penaf ydyw ef
Ar wyneb daear gron."

Ar frys yr aeth i'w 'stafell ef,
Ca'dd yno ddychryn mawr;
'Roedd cryd ei blentyn wedi ei droi,
A gwaed yn rhuddio'r llawr!

" Fy mhlentyn tyner," ebai ef,
" Fy mhlentyn anwyl i!
Rhyw lofrudd â'i ysgeler law
Derfynodd d'einioes di! "

A Gelert o ryw dywyll le
A gododd ar ei draed,
A'i lygaid yn melltenu tân,
A'i safn yn goch gan waed;
" A'i ti a wnaeth y weithred hon?
O elyn tost i mi! "
A sydyn gyda'i gleddyf llym
Trywanodd ef ei gi.

Ah! dyma lais o dan y cryd,
Fel miwsig angel syw;
Ymgrymu wna y fam a'r tad,
Mae'r plentyn eto'n fyw;
Wrth droi y dillad, gwelent ef
Yn gwenu yn ei hûn,
Ac wrth ei ben, yn gelain gorph
Mae blaidd o aflan lun.

Llewelyn dd'wedai yn ei loes—
" O! Gelert, fyddlon gi,
Achubaist ti ei fywyd ef
A lleddais innau di!
Cei faen o farmor ar dy fedd,
Anrhydedd fydd dy ran "—
A'r ci wrth lyfu llaw y Llyw,
Fu farw yn y fan.

TALHAIARN.

The monastery that stood here is said to have been the oldest in North Wales, with the exception of that on Bardsey Island. It was in existence long before the twelfth century, and was granted lands by Llewelyn the Great and Llewelyn ab Gruffydd. At the Dissolution of the Monasteries the lands of the monastery were given to some of the chief men of the neighbourhood.

The Glaslyn, after escaping from the Pass of Aberglaslyn, flows on through an ever-widening valley known as the Vale

of Tremadoc. It is also called Traethmawr, and, until a hundred years ago, was a broad expanse covered by the sea at high tide. The idea of re-claiming this tract of land from the sea occurred to Sir John Wynne, of Gwydir, and he wrote to the gentleman who brought water to London, the Myddleton of New River fame, suggesting that he should bring his engineering genius to bear upon the work. For some reason or other Myddleton did not undertake the enterprise, but a local gentleman—the late Mr. W. A. Madocks, M.P.—successfully re-claimed the fertile land, through which the Glaslyn now flows. This gentleman caused a huge embankment to be made to keep out the sea, with smaller dykes to keep the Glaslyn and its feeders within proper bounds. Over £100,000 were spent, and some 7,000 acres of land were re-claimed.

Tremadoc was built by the same gentleman. He had hopes of its becoming a big town, but the rise of its neighbour, Portmadoc, has somewhat dwarfed its growth. Tremadoc stands on the western side, and a little above the plain of Traethmawr, and lies under an abrupt cliff called Yr Allt Wen. It is a well built town, and has a small woollen industry.

Portmadoc, a rising seaport town and watering-place, stands a mile away. The industries of the town are varied. They comprise engineering, brick-making, lime-burning, sail-making, and the preparation of slates for the market. It has a busy harbour, doing a prosperous coasting trade. Slate from the great Festiniog quarries forms the chief export, but the port has also a brisk trade in the shipping of copper and lead ores, bark, timber and wool. The slates are brought to the port over what has been termed the "Toy Railway," one of the curiosities of Wales. The railway reaches the port over the great embankment thrown across the mouth of the Glaslyn by Mr. Madocks.

Portmadoc Harbour.

The engines on this railway, known as the Bogie-Fairlie engines, have driving wheels only two feet four inches in diameter. Yet they can, with speed and safety, draw long and heavy trains up the mountain sides, round sharp curves and along the tops of precipices. The width between the rails is only two feet, and so sharp are some of the curves on the line, that the train sometimes takes the form of the letter "S." As the line passes through some very beautiful scenery, it is very popular with tourists, and to accommodate them small passenger carriages have been built. Though they are only six feet wide and six and half feet high, they are perfectly comfortable.

The Church of Penmorfa, some two miles from Portmadoc, contains a monument of Sir John Owen, of Clenneny. This gentleman lived in the time of Charles I., and was a strong Royalist. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Llandegai, and with some other prisoners he was tried for treason and sentenced to be beheaded. When sentenced he made a low bow to the judges, and thanked them for their kindness. He was asked why he thought beheading was a kindness. Sir John's reply was, "that it was a great honour for him to lose his head in such good company, for he was afraid he should have been hung." It is said that his answer won for him his pardon.

Criccieth is a modern town, built upon the shores of two bays, with a few straggling cottages to remind us of the old village. It is rapidly growing into favour as a seaside resort as it combines the attractions of the seashore with those of a mountain district. It has an old castle, which adds to the interest of the town.

Criccieth Castle stands on a high piece of ground between the two small bays on which the town is built. It was erected by Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, and in it was imprisoned Gruffydd ab Llewelyn. When Llewelyn ab Gruffydd fell the castle became the possession of Edward I.,

Criccieth Castle

who probably repaired and strengthened it, and afterwards gave it and the estates belonging to it to William de Leybourne.

In the reign of Edward III. the castle was the home of Sir Howel y Fwyall, a valiant man, who fought with distinction at the Battle of Poictiers, in France. He used a pole-axe (Y Fwyall) as his weapon, and so bravely did he conduct himself that the Black Prince knighted him on the field. The prince further ordered that a mess of meat, prepared at the Royal expense, should be offered daily before the axe. This mess, after being shown to Sir Howel, was distributed among the poor of Criccieth. The custom of offering the food to the axe was continued until the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The chief rooms of the castle were in the round towers that flanked the entrance. From the towers the walls ran in the form of a diamond, with the entrance at one of the points. The ruinous towers and parts of the walls are all that are now left. In the reign of Henry IV. the castle was defended for the king. Owen Glyndwr tried hard to capture it, but the garrison under Ieuan ab Meredydd resisted all the efforts of the besiegers.

Llanystumdwy, a picturesque village on the banks of the Dwyfawr, stands about two miles from Criccieth. The district is full of the remains of bye-gone days, and is rife with the traditions of the past. The village is just an ordinary Carnarvonshire one, with no great claim to fame. Here, however, lived—previous to her marriage—the mother of the Right Honourable David Lloyd George, one of the most celebrated of our present day statesmen, and here she returned on the death of her husband. Though not the birthplace of the famous Welsh Chancellor of the Exchequer, the village of Llanystumdwy is indelibly associated with his early life. Even now, when the duties of public life permit, he is often to be seen enjoying the wholesome out-door life of this invigorating and rustic district.

Llanystumdwy Bridge and Church

CHAPTER XXV.

Some Places in Arfon and Lleyn.

ARFON is a cantref of the district, or province, of Arfon, that formed a portion of the Kingdom of Gwynedd, and lies along the shore of the Menai Strait between the rivers Ogwen and Llyfni. It is divided into two conmotes, Uwchgwyrfai and Isgwyrfai. Lleyn is another cantref of Arfon, and is divided into the three commotes of Cymytmaen, Tinllayn, or Dinlleyn, and Canologion. It is chiefly an agricultural district, but several fishing villages are situated on its shores, and quarrying of limestone and granite is also carried on. The whole district has many pretty villages, whose history and churches call to mind the days when Christianity was introduced into the country, and the later times when the peninsula was traversed by numerous pilgrims who were on their way to the Holy Isle of Bardsey.

Penygroes is a large mining village in Arfon, that stands about half a mile north of the River Llyfni, and about six miles south-west of Carnarvon. It is dependent upon the slate industry for its prosperity, and a branch railway runs from the village up the Llyfni Valley to the slate quarries. A mile south of Penygroes is Llanllyfni, where slate quarrying is again the chief mainstay of the population. Higher up the river valley is Nantlle, where there are large and important slate quarries.

Clynnog Fawr, on the borders of Arfon and Lleyn, is one of the most interesting places in the county. It is beautifully situated on Carnarvon Bay, and from it the Wicklow Hills in Ireland may be seen on a clear day. Manganese ore

is found in the neighbouring hills, but the mining operations for the ore have not proved very successful. In the district are two cromlechs and other remains of olden times.

Clynnog, formerly called Bangor Clynnog, was the seat of a monastery founded by St. Beuno, in the sixth century. The monastery, which became a house of the Carmelite Friars, was dissolved in the 16th century, and the only remains are the church, and perhaps St. Beuno's Chapel, which is joined to it by a curious passage. The church is built in the form of a cross, and is said to be the finest example of a collegiate church in North Wales. It is in the Perpendicular Style of architecture, and the choir contains some curious seats, which are so arranged that a sleepy worshipper is certain of an upset. Beneath the pulpit is the altar tomb of Colonel Twistleton, the captor of Sir John Owen at the Battle of Llandegai. A pair of "dog-tongs" (gefail cwn) is preserved in the church.

Many are the legends and customs connected with St. Beuno, but we can only notice a few. St. Beuno's chest, made of a solid piece of oak and secured by three locks, is preserved in the church. So strong were these locks considered that, "You may as well try to break St. Beuno's chest," has passed into a proverb.

In the chest was kept the money obtained from the sale of the lambs and calves offered to the saint. All lambs and calves born with St. Beuno's mark (Nôd Beuno), on their ears were considered to belong to him, and were given to the clergy of his church. This custom, very profitable to the clergy, was continued until recent times. Bread and cheese were offered to the saint on Trinity Sunday, and if anyone wanted a certain cure for the worst physical or spiritual ill, he had only to offer a groat piece and the cure was effected. It was also customary for sick and lame persons to cover the saint's tomb

with rushes and lie on them all night, when it was expected that they would rise quite well next morning.

When St. Beuno died, Clynnog Fawr, Nevin, and Bardsey each claimed the honour of providing him with a grave. "A warm contention arose at his burial; the company fell asleep, and, on waking, saw three coffins perfectly alike! so each party claimed one." Like St. Teilo, of Llandaff, Beuno was a most obliging saint.

St. Beuno's Well stands in a square space about a hundred yards from the church. It is enclosed by a wall provided with seats, and formerly was famed for healing the sick, particularly children suffering from rickets. It was also a "cursing" well, and anyone who dropped an offering into the water, with a prayer to the saint expressing his desires, could work an injury upon an enemy. Eben Fardd lies buried in the churchyard.

Llanaelhaiarn stands on the top of the pass between Moel Penllechog and Yr Eifl. It is a centre whence the peaks of Yr Eifl, Nant Gwrtheyrn, Tre'r Ceiri, and other sights of the districts may be visited. It was the second stage for pilgrims from Carnarvon, Clynnog Fawr being the first. It, also, has a cross church and a Holy Well. The church was restored some years ago, and numerous inscriptions written by pilgrims were discovered when the walls were scraped. An old stone of unknown date bears an inscription in Welsh stating, "This is my seat and my grave."

The road from Llanaelhaiarn to Nevin runs through the pass between Yr Eifl and Mynydd Carnguwch. Large quarries in this district provide great quantities of granite, which are shipped from piers, and from the little harbour of Trevor, under the shadow of Yr Eifl.

Nevin is a small town of about 2,000 inhabitants, and stands on Porth Nevin, an opening of Carnarvon Bay. It has many attractions to recommend it to the tourist and holiday-

maker, but to this day it preserves some of its old-world air. It is curiously situated, and consists of one long street with several branch streets. The main street leads "towards, but not to, the sea," for to reach the beach a winding route has to be followed.

Quiet as Nevin may now be, it was a scene of bustle and brilliancy when Edward I. and "the chief nobility of England and many foreigners of distinction" flocked there in 1284. Here were concluded the splendid revels, commenced among the Snowdonian Mountains, with which Edward celebrated the fact that he had at last succeeded in seizing Wales.

The ceremonies consisted of a magnificent tournament, and Edward, in imitation of King Arthur, called the Plain of Nevin, the Round Table. The site of the lists could be traced within recent years, and local place names commemorate the event. Thus there is the Queen's Court or Plain, Pen y Brenhin or the King's Mound, and the Parliament House. The Black Prince gave Nevin to Sir Nigel de Loryng, and it was made a free borough with the grant of many privileges.

Nearly two miles beyond Nevin, at the edge of a promontory forming the arm of a semicircular bay, is Porth Dinlleyn. It is the terminus of an excellent road which was made from Pwllheli many years ago, because it was thought that the Government would make a packet station here. The harbour is very well suited for the purpose, and, on one occasion, only the casting vote of the Speaker of the House of Commons gave Holyhead the preference. Telford's road and bridges, and the Britannia Tubular Bridge put an end to its hopes. The bay is excellently well sheltered, and forms a natural harbour of refuge for ships during most winds.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Places on the South of Lleyn

PWLLHELI has been called the capital of Lleyn. It is a municipal and parliamentary borough, a seaport and a market town, and has a population of about 4,000. The old town stands above an almost land-locked harbour, which opens out beyond a steep promontory called Carreg yr Imbill (Gimlet Rock) into Tremadoc Bay.

Though placed in a somewhat out of the way situation, it does a brisk shipping trade in general goods. Fishing forms a source of employment for a number of the inhabitants. The Gimlet Rock, at the entrance to the harbour, supplies large quantities of stone, which is worked into setts, and shipped to various ports. There is a little woollen manufacturing done.

Pwllheli, of late years, has developed into a watering-place, the new town on the south and west beaches chiefly catering for the visitors. The beach is a broad expanse of sand stretching for four miles along the coast, and is firm and well adapted for boating and bathing. Large sums of money have been spent on improvements, and a tram-line runs from the town westwards as far as Llanbedrog.

At the head of the bay is Glyn-y-Weddw, a house built by Lady Jones-Parry, but now made into an art gallery with pleasure grounds attached. The public are admitted on payment of a small fee. The gallery contains works of art by many famous painters, chief among whom are Turner, David Cox, De Wint, Teniers and Landseer. Adjoining the new

Pwllheli.

town is a recreation ground, which contains a cycle track, and just outside the town are the golf links.

The coast near the town has suffered from encroachments by the sea, and some years ago large embankments were erected to protect it. The harbour was a tidal basin, and was handicapped by its shallowness. The new works, however, remove this handicap, and turn the basin into a deep harbour. They were commenced by the late Lord Ritchie, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, and cost from £60,000 to £70,000 to complete. Much of the money was raised locally, but contributions were also made by the Government and the Cambrian Railway Company. A prosperous future seems assured to the progressive little town.

A writer has spoken of Pwllheli in the following glowing terms : " The dear little place is a snug, smiling, dainty, delightful, little watering-place. . . Until five years ago, Pwllhelians were quite content with their quiet old grey town of narrow winding streets, overhung by ancient houses and beetling cliffs, with its harbour in the shadow of the Gimlet Rock. Then these gallant Welshmen determined to make a seaside resort of their pretty home, and they have begun with an energy and purpose that promises well for the future."

The old town lies at the foot of a low range, and is almost a mile from the beach. Until a few years ago its streets were all paved with cobbles, but with its development since 1890 they have been improved for traffic. Its history extends back to the thirteenth century, when it was given by the Black Prince to Sir Nigel de Loryng for his bravery at Poictiers. The ruins of St. Nigel's Welsh home stands between Abersoch and Aberdaron, and his name is still preserved in Porth Nigel, the polite name for Hell's Mouth.

Abererch stands on the Erch, some one and a quarter miles from Pwllheli. It is a remarkably pretty little village, and contains a church with a long Norman aisle and bell tower.

Llanbedrog is another picturesque village, and stands at the foot of a hill sloping seawards, about four and a half miles from Pwllheli. South of the village the headland of Llanbedrog Point, "clad with heather and faced with steep cliffs, leaps for nearly a mile straight out to sea." The road through Llanbedrog is called Pig Street, and is a relic of Roman days, running to their lead mines near Abersoch. Abersoch is also protected by a headland to the south. It is a little fishing village, almost beyond the reach of the ordinary tourist. Lead is still mined in the district.

Llanengan stands in the valley of the Soch. Its church is said to be only second in size to that of Clynnog Fawr, and contains a fine rood screen and loft. It has a fine tower, in which are hung bells of great age and sweetness of tone. One, called the "Silver Bell," is said by tradition to have come from Bardsey Abbey. A sixth century stone in the tower has the inscription: "I, Einion, King of Wales, built this church to the Glory of the Eternal Judge."

South of Llanengan runs a headland some three miles long and three miles broad. It lies between St. Tudwal's Road and Porth Nigel, and terminates in Pencilan Head and Wylfa Head. On its surface are the remains of a number of camps and fortified posts.

Aberdaron, an old, grey, picturesque, fishing village, is the remotest place in Wales. It stands on a sandy nook guarded by sharp rocks and rugged cliffs, with the two islets of Ynys Gwylan Fawr and Fach protecting the entrance into the bay. The old church, situated on the shore of the bay, had the privilege of the sanctuary, and to it fled Gruffydd ab Rhys ab Tudor from the court of Gwynedd, when he was in danger of being handed over to the English King. The old church, too, was the last shelter of pilgrims on their way to Bardsey. Here they huddled together for comfort, awaiting a favourable opportunity for crossing over to the Holy Isle.

Near the village stood a house of the Dean of Bangor, in which, so it is said, Glyndwr, Hotspur, and Mortimer, met to conclude their alliance and to divide England between them should they prove successful in their war against Henry IV. The village will also be remembered in connection with the famed Dick of Aberdaron, a self-taught man accredited with the knowledge of very many languages. He was unable to turn his knowledge to account, and, in spite of many efforts to assist him, he lived and died but a little better than a beggar. His death took place in 1843, and he lies buried in the Parish Church at St. Asaph.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Bardsey Isle (Ynys Enlli).

"Safe in this island,
Where each saint would be;
How wilt thou smile
On life's stormy sea."

—Inscription on monument at Bardsey.

BARDSEY ISLAND, the Iona of Wales, rises out of the sea three miles south-west of Braich y Pwll. Many thousands of years ago it formed part of the mainland, but the rough sea wore away all the lower lying and softer land, cutting off this rocky portion. At times the wind and tide, and a deep, fierce current, makes the passage between the island and the mainland one of great danger, and often it is impossible to reach or leave the island for weeks together. The Welsh name of the island, Ynys Enlli, is usually said to mean the island "yn y llif" (in the current); but Sir John Rhys suggests that it is the Island of Benlli, a giant, after

whom Moel Fenlli, a well-known mountain in the Clwydian Range is called.

Bardsey is about two miles in length, five miles in circumference, and rises on its north-eastern face in cliffs 600 feet high. From a very early period it was the resort of holy men and it is reputed that 20,000 saints have been buried on the isle. The word "saint," as used by the early Christians, meant a person who had given up a worldly life in preference for a holy or religious one. He might be a monk; he might be a hermit; or he might be a missionary who settled in a district, preached the Gospel there, and founded a church afterwards generally known by his name.

A monastery was founded on the island in A.D. 516, by Cadfan, a Prince of Armorica, in France. A large British colony existed in Armorica, and that country and Britain were very closely connected in olden times. Cadfan was joined by Einion Frenhin, and soon they collected around them a large body of monks. After the massacre at Bangor Iscoed their numbers were increased by many of the fugitives who had escaped slaughter. Early Christians who had worked hard for the faith looked forward to spending their last years in the peace of the abbey, and many prominent men of the Welsh Church came here to die. Perhaps the most famous of them was Dubritius (the Welsh Dyfrig), one of the founders of the See of Llandaff.

Giraldus Cambrensis, who wrote at the end of the twelfth century, states: "Beyond Llhyn (Lleyn) there is a small island inhabited by religious monks called Caelibes, or Colidei (Culdees). This island, either from the wholesomeness of its climate, owing to its nearness to Ireland, or rather from some miracle obtained by the merits of the saints, has a wonderful peculiarity, that the oldest people die first, because diseases are uncommon, and scarcely any die except from extreme old age."

Another old Latin writing refers to the same tradition. It tells us that God made an agreement with Laudanes, an abbot, that as a reward for the great piety of the monks, the oldest should always die first, "like a shock of corn ripe for the sickle." The piety of the monks fell from its high standard, they became less righteous, lost the privilege granted them, and afterwards died as other men.

In the *History of the Church of the Cymry* is written: "For many centuries the island was to Welshmen what Westminster Abbey is to Englishmen—the holy place of burial of all that was bravest and best in the land. . . It was known at one time as the 'Rome of Britain,' and the Welsh bards called it the land of Indulgences, Absolution and Pardon, the road to heaven, and the gate to Paradise. So great was the holiness of the place considered, that three pilgrimages to Enlli were regarded as equal to one pilgrimage to Rome."

Little remains of the once famous abbey. Some years ago a portion was pulled down by the inhabitants of the island who used the stones to build their cottages. The people, less than a hundred in number, are fishermen, and they combine with fishing a little farming. They claim that they belong to no county, and therefore pay no rates, but rent is paid to the owner of the island.

A monument in memory of the saints buried on the island was raised by the late Lord Newborough, who was himself buried here. A Celtic cross of Anglesey marble, 28 feet high marks the site of his grave. A second monument to the saintly dead was erected at the same time as the cross. At the southern end of the island is a lighthouse, from which, on a clear day, St. David's Head, 62 miles away, can be plainly seen,

CHAPTER XXVIII.

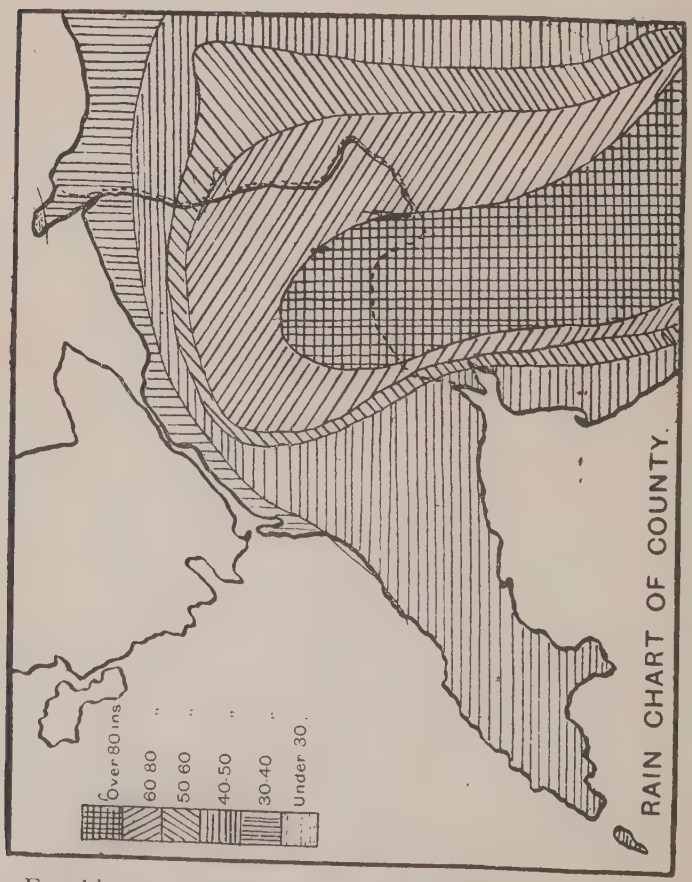
Climate.

BY climate we mean the kind of weather that a country or district generally enjoys. This depends upon many circumstances, chief of which is the distance of the district from the Equator. We, in Carnarvonshire, are about half-way between the equator and the North Pole, so we do not get the very hot weather of the Tropics, or the very cold weather of the Arctic Regions.

But when we compare our climate with that of some other places at the same distance from the Equator, we find that they get colder winters and warmer summers than we do. Why is this? It is due to the fact that we are on the sea coast, while they are almost, if not entirely, surrounded by land. Water takes longer to get warm than the land, but it also takes longer to cool when once it has been warmed. So in summer the sea makes the air and, therefore, the temperature cooler, and in winter it makes the air warmer than it would otherwise be. We also feel the effects of a warm ocean current that washes our shores. It is called the North Atlantic Drift, and it makes our winters much warmer than they would be if it did not exist.

Our nearness to the sea, combined with the nature of the surface of the county, and the direction of most of our winds, makes our climate a moist one. Winds from the sea are always more or less laden with water vapour, and, as our winds mostly blow from the west or south-west, that is, from the Atlantic Ocean, they bring us plenty of rain. Had we no mountains, however, much of this moisture would pass

over us to inland districts; but the high mountains of the centre and south-east of the county force the water-laden winds up into colder regions, where the vapour is condensed and falls as rain.



For this reason the places round the highest mountains get the most rain. Lleyn, though the moisture-laden winds pass over it first, has a much less rainfall than, say, Llanberis, or

Capel Curig. Why is this? It is because Lleyn has not much high land whereby the moisture can be condensed.

As we have seen, the wettest part of the county lies in the centre and south-east, where high mountains cluster thickly together. Here, in parts, over eighty inches of rain fall every year. As the land decreases in height, and as we get further to the north and north-east, the rainfall decreases. Two causes account for this: the height of the land gets less and the moisture-laden air therefore falls below the condensing regions, and much of the moisture has already been condensed in passing over the Snowdonian Mountains. Hence, as you may see by the map, the driest portion of the county is the coastal strip lying between the Mouth of the Llyfni and the Peninsula of Creuddyn. Indeed, around Llandudno barely thirty inches of rain fall yearly.

For many years records have been kept of the temperature of the air at different times of the day. Taking the county generally, it has been found from these that the average temperature, taking every day in the year, is about fifty degrees. During the summer months the temperature is between sixty and sixty-one degrees, and in the winter months it is about forty degrees. So the temperature, on the whole, is neither very warm nor very cold, and consequently the climate of Carnarvonshire is described as a mild or temperate climate. If you compare the average yearly temperature with either the summer or the winter average, you will see that the difference is but ten or eleven degrees. We, therefore, say that the climate is equal.

The irregular surface of the county has also an effect upon the temperature of different localities. We all know that the higher we ascend from the sea-level the colder it becomes, hence it is but natural to find that it is colder on the mountains than on the lower-lying grounds. The north of the county is also colder than the south. The north is not so

protected from the cold and bitter north and east winds as the south is. Besides, a district with a northerly slope is never so warm as one that slopes to the south. The valleys, too, are more charged with vapour and are less exposed to the chilling and evaporating power of the winds, so they enjoy a milder and more congenial climate than the more open districts.

CHAPTER XXIX.

Soil and Agriculture.

THE soil in the valleys and coastal plains of the county is generally a good free loam, which is just the soil that is suitable for general tillage purposes. In parts the loam is stronger, and we generally find, in that case, that the land is laid down in permanent pasture. If we had more sunshine this strong loam would be excellent soil for the growth of wheat. These soils have to be well limed, as there is hardly any under-soil containing lime in the county.

On the sea-coast some little sandy soil is to be found, but Carnarvonshire is very free from large areas of sand dunes and sand containing soil. Those lower hills that are not largely composed of slaty rock are covered with the soil known as Ferny Soil, or Hazel Mould. Here good grass and some cultivated crops may be grown, but if not carefully tended, the soil will grow ferns, broom, gorse, and underwood, as hazel and hawthorn, that will soon develop into a wilderness.

The slopes of the slaty hills have soil called Till, or Hungry Mould. In this, when uncultivated, the mountain ash, the birch and gorse grow wild. The higher mountains are practically bare, but in damp places peat or moss is to be found. In the broader valleys and along the banks of the streams is

found a soil which has been carried down by the rivers. This kind of soil is known as *alluvium*.

The surface of Lleyn is mostly upland pasture, and the fields are divided by stone walls, or earthen mounds. The soil is light and stony, which, from its situation, is drier and warmer than that in other parts of the county. Its crops are, therefore, larger and more valuable. Many cattle are fed on its pastures, and its horses are considered to be the best in the county.

The object of farmers' work, or agriculture, as it is called, is to provide food for mankind and animals. For man, corn and wheat is grown; sheep, cattle and pigs are reared for flesh foods; and from the milk of the cows, butter and cheese are made. Hay, straw, corn, grass and roots are grown to provide the necessary food for beasts.

The climate of Carnarvonshire is best suited for that branch of a farmer's work known as dairy-farming. The ample supply of moisture gives a plentiful growth of grass, but, at the same time, the abundant rainfall militates against the county as a corn-growing district. Nearly one-third of the surface of Carnarvonshire is made up of mountain and moorland, which is suitable only for grazing purposes. About half the surface is laid down in crops and grass, while the remainder is occupied by bare fallow, woods and plantations, waste lands, and water.

A little over one-fifth of the total area (about 67,000 acres) is occupied by arable, or ploughed, lands. On this land are grown the corn crops, root and green crops, and such cultivated grasses as clover. Corn takes up some 17,000 acres, root and green crops about 8,000 acres, and the grasses nearly 42,000 acres. One-third of the total area of the county is laid down in permanent pasture land. Woods and plantations have an area of 13,000 acres, small fruit takes

up some 60 acres, and about 240 acres are allowed to lie as bare fallow.

The cereals chiefly grown are oats, barley, and wheat, though a little rye, beans and peas are sometimes sown. Oats take up by far the greater portion of the corn lands. This shows clearly the effect of the climate. Oats do not require so much sun as wheat to ripen, therefore, they can be grown where wheat can not. Eleven thousand acres are devoted to oats. Barley is grown on about 5,000 acres, while wheat is only grown on 377 acres. The corn grown does not nearly supply the amount required for man and beast, so large quantities have to be brought into the county every year.

The root crops (about 8,000 acres) are chiefly potatoes, turnips, swedes, and mangold wurzels. Turnips, swedes, and mangolds are pulled up, and either stacked in earth-covered heaps, or placed in barns and covered with straw, and are preserved for winter use. When green food is scarce in hard weather, they are chopped up and given to the sheep and cattle. The grasses, from the cultivated lands, from the permanent pastures, and from the upland meadows, are made into hay and stacked for fodder.

Carnarvonshire has over 50,000 cattle feeding upon its pastures. In olden times it was said that Snowdonia could produce enough flesh food for the whole of Wales. Large numbers of the cattle consist of Black Anglesey Runts. There are also some of the brinded, short-legged cows of Montgomery. These breeds are native to Wales. In the lowlands numbers of English breeds have been introduced, chiefly Herefords, with a fair sprinkling of Devons.

The native sheep of Carnarvonshire is a small, wiry animal, which has very coarse wool. It is well-adapted for finding a living among the mountains which form its home. The mutton from these animals is considered to be delicious. The sheep are very wild, and, not being confined, roam far and

wide over the mountains in search of food. Of English breeds, the Herefords, South Downs, and Cheviots are the varieties most often introduced. Some goats are reared, but nothing like the numbers reared in former days. The county has altogether about 270,000 sheep. There are also 9,000 horses of various kinds, and about 21,000 pigs.

CHAPTER XXX.

Rocks and Minerals.

ROCKS include all those materials that go to form the solid crust of the earth. They include, not only the hard substances we call stones, but also substances like sand, clay and mud. All rocks are divided into two great classes—those formed by fire and those laid down by water.

Fire-formed rocks are called Igneous Rocks, and water-laid rocks are known as Aqueous, Sedimentary, or Stratified Rocks. Aqueous and Sedimentary Rocks are so called because they have been formed by rivers, seas and lakes, just as the mud settles at the bottom of a bucket of dirty water. The name Stratified has been given them because they have been formed in layers or *Strata*.

Igneous, or fire-formed rocks, are the oldest in the world. Of course, some are much newer than even the later formed stratified rocks. For example, some igneous rocks are in process of formation at the present time wherever a volcano is in active operation. Both igneous and stratified rocks are found in the county.

With the exception of the sand on the seashore and that which forms the promontory to the west of Forhyd Bay, and the alluvial soil brought down by the rivers, all Carnarvon-

shire rocks are very old. They belong to the class of rocks which have been placed in one big group and called Primary Rocks. This name was given because the rocks in the series were those first formed after the earth had cooled from its original molten state.

The youngest Carnarvonshire rock of Primary age is that called Mountain Limestone. It is only found in the peninsula of Creuddyn—where it forms the bold headlands, Great and Little Orme—and in that strip of land that belongs to the county east of Colwyn Bay. Mountain limestone belongs to the coal age, and is always to be found underlying the coal measures. South Wales miners call the rock that lies above it, the "Farewell Rock," for they know that once they come to it they can never hope to find any coal below it.

The rocks next in age to the mountain limestone are called Devonian Rocks. None of this series is found in Carnarvonshire. Older than the Devonian Rocks are those of the Silurian formation. These cover a great portion of Wales, and derive their name from the Silures, a tribe of ancient Britons that inhabited Glamorgan and Monmouthshire. The rocks are divided into two groups, the Lower and Upper Silurian. The Lower Silurian Rocks are found in great plenty in the county; in fact, they cover the greater portion of it.

The rocks of the Lower Silurian formation that are found in the county are those called Bala and Caradoc Beds, Llandeilo Beds, Tremadoc Slates, and Lingula Flags. They lie on each other with the Lingula Flags lowest. They are exposed on the surface according to the manner in which they have been pushed up from below, or have had their edges worn away by the action of water and the weather.

The Bala Beds consist of slates, shales, and grits, with two beds of limestone. They are so named because they are well seen near Bala Lake. Llandeilo Beds are named from Llan-

deilo, in Carmarthenshire. They are chiefly dark slates and sandy flagstones. Tremadoc slates are only to be found in the neighbourhood of Tremadoc. Lingula Flags consist of

dark shales and flagstones, and they are so named from a fossil shell they contain.

Below the Silurian Rocks is the series called Cambrian Rocks. They are, of course, older than the Silurian, and

only appear at the surface in patches. Cambrian rocks are a series of sandstones and slates, and are so called from Cambria, an old name for Wales. The slates in this series are very valuable, and the great quarries of the county are in this rock.

The Cambrian Rocks appear in two patches, one north of, and the other south of Snowdon. You can see from the map where they lie. Some of the Cambrian sandstones are rain-pitted and ripple-marked. These marks show us that the rock was formed from sand deposited on the shores of lakes or seas. It is thought some of the beds in the Cambrian Rocks were formed at the bottoms and shores of large fresh-water lakes.

Bardsey Island and a strip of the western shore of Lleyn are formed of a rock older even than the Cambrian Rocks. For this reason it is known as pre-Cambrian. This rock was at first a sedimentary rock, but its character has been much altered, in long past ages, by the action of heat and pressure.

There is one class of rock which is far different from any of those already noticed. It is found in most parts of the county, and plays a great part in the formation of the mountain ranges. It is Igneous or fire-formed rock.

This rock was once in a molten state, and was forced upwards through the beds of rock already laid down, and there cooled and became solid. Learned men tell us that our Igneous Rocks were formed during the Silurian age. They, as you may perhaps have guessed, are composed of lava and volcanic ashes. The Igneous Rocks in Carnarvon are generally a kind of purple granite*, greenstone and syenite. The last is a stone very much like granite. Your teacher will show you how to distinguish one from the other.

* Porphyry.

From 80,000 to 240,000 years ago, Europe had an Arctic climate, and was in part covered with ice. The ice moved slowly downward and carried with it masses of stones, mud, pebbles, &c. Wales, during part of this time, was joined to England and Scotland, where there is now sea. An immense glacier, or river of ice, started in Scotland and touched the Island of Anglesey and the Peninsula of Lleyn. We know this because masses of Scotch granite have been found in these places, which could not have been carried there by any other means.

Carnarvonshire, also, had its own glacier system, which was grouped around Snowdon. The glaciers flowed through and helped to form the valleys that run from Y Wyddfa in all directions. In course of time the glaciers melted away, but we can see traces of their work in scratched, polished and grooved rocks; in heaps of mud and stones they dropped when melting; in glacial, or boulder, clay formed from the rocks crushed by the glacier after falling to the bottom through cracks in the ice; in glacier formed lakes as Llyn Idwal, and in huge blocks of stone which the glaciers have carried some distance from the parent beds.

From the rocks of the county the inhabitants get much of their wealth. More igneous rocks are quarried than any other single kind. Nearly 420,000 tons are dug out of the earth every year. Limestone comes next in quantity, the annual produce being about 410,000 tons. Slate, of course, is the most valuable rock, but in weight this comes third. About 270,000 tons are quarried and prepared for the market every year. Clay and other brick-making earths amount to some 36,000 tons. Gravel and sand come next with 7,000 tons, and sandstone is quarried only to the extent of about 600 tons.

Some of the rocks contain veins of various ores, but these are not worked to the same extent as formerly. Zinc-ore

as at Bangor and Carnarvon, make these articles, so many takes the lead, and some 2,000 tons are produced yearly. Copper and lead ores amount to about 600 tons each, and some 300 tons of each of manganese and iron ores are mined.

CHAPTER XXXI.

The Slate Quarries.

AS you have already read, slate plays an important part in the work and prosperity of the people of Carnarvonshire. It is to them what the coal of the great South Wales Coalfield is to the inhabitants of the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth. Though slate is to be found in other parts of England and Wales, the most famous slate districts are those lying around Snowdon. Here the rock is easily quarried, and, when dug out of the earth, is of a quality far superior to that found in any other district.

The two chief centres of the industry are those lying north and south of Snowdon. The chief towns in these districts are Festiniog, in Merionethshire, and Bethesda, in our own county. The Penrhyn Quarries, at Bethesda, are the largest and most famous in the world. North of Snowdon, too, are the Dinorwic Quarries, near Llanberis. To the west, Nantlle is the centre of another important slate raising district.

Slate consists of clay which has been hardened and otherwise changed into a solid rock. It is of such a nature that it splits very easily into thin plates. If you take any piece of slate and examine it, you can see for yourselves how very thin scales can be obtained. The slate is not got out of the quarry in the thin plates we see so often, but in huge blocks, which are loosened by means of gunpowder. This operation is called "blasting." Blasting is very dangerous work, and

great care has to be taken to avoid injury to the workmen.

A picture of a slate quarry shows us that it looks like a number of huge, wide steps carved into the side of the mountain. From these "steps" workmen are lowered down the steep sides by means of ropes. Here they are suspended in certain places, where they drive, or drill, holes into the solid rock with steel drills. Charges of gunpowder, or dynamite, are placed into the holes, and the men are drawn up.

When a number of holes have been charged, a horn is sounded. Workmen, anywhere near the spot, drop their tools and run for shelter from the rocks that soon will be flying in all directions. When they are safe the charges are fired, and, with a loud booming sound, they explode, tearing huge masses of slate from the sides of the quarry. It is interesting to remember that when his late Majesty King Edward VII. visited the Penrhyn Quarries, in July, 1907, he was saluted on his journey by the loud booms of these rock cannon.

The blocks of stones thrown down by the explosions are placed on trucks, which run on tramways in the quarry. They are taken to the workshops to be prepared for the market. The blocks are split into thin sheets by workmen armed with a heavy mallet and a sharp, broad-pointed chisel. A skilled workman knows exactly where to strike, so he splits the blocks up quickly and readily.

The slates, when split, are cut into various sizes by means of machinery. The workmen give curious names to the various sizes of roofing slates. The largest is called a "Queen," and they range through "Duchesses" and "Countesses" to the little "Ladies," that are only sixteen inches long and eight inches wide.

Slates are not only used for roofing purposes, but also as writing slates, mantelpieces, clocks, in billiard tables, and for a variety of other purposes. Workshops in the towns,

people besides those at the quarries derive their living from slate. At the workshops the slate is polished, and, in the case of writing-slates, frames have to be made and fitted. For other objects the slate has to be cut and carved, and in many cases enamelled. So you see how largely the county is dependent for work and prosperity upon the Slate Trade.

CHAPTER XXXII.

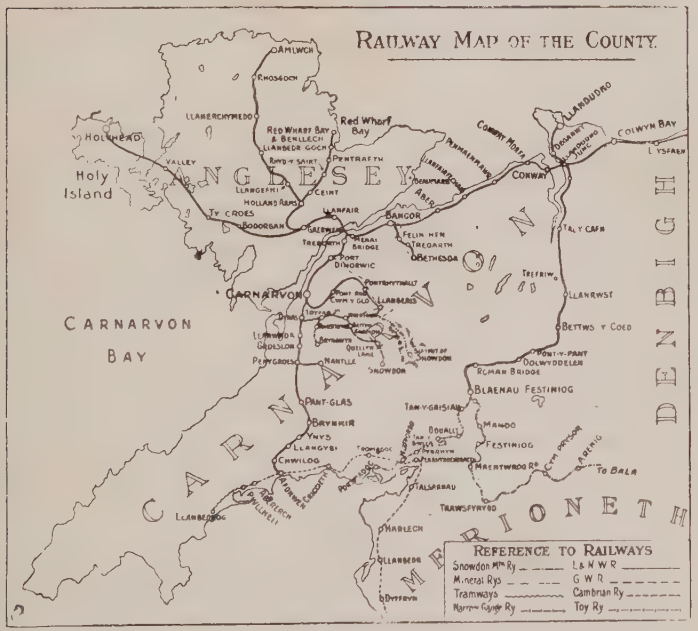
Means of Communication.

THE earliest means of moving about from one place to another were along paths, or tracks, worn out by travellers' feet as they journeyed over the easiest routes. These trackways became in time regular roadways; but roads as we know them, were not made until the Romans came. It was the custom of the Romans to lay down good paved roads in any country they conquered. The roads ran from one military station to another, and they were of great service for the rapid movement of troops, stores, and articles of commerce from place to place.

Several of these roads crossed Wales, and two of them ran through our own county. As you will remember, there were two important Roman stations in what is now Carnarvonshire. The roads joined these stations, *Conovium* (Caerhun), and *Segontium* (Carnarvon), with other stations in England and Wales.

The chief road ran from *Deva* (Chester), along the North Wales coast, to *Segontium*, passing on its way through *Conovium*. The other—*Sarn Helen*—commenced at *Nidum* (Neath), on the South Wales coast road called the *Via Julia*. It

ran to *Loventium*, a station in the Teifi Valley, where it was joined by another road from *Maridunum* (Carmarthen). The *Sarn Helen* ran northward from *Loventium* in a direction almost parallel to the coast. It entered the Conwy Valley at Dolwyddelan and then ran on to *Conovium*, near Conway.



The Romans left the country in the fifth century, and their roads fell into decay. Their decay, in some parts, was no doubt helped by people who took up the stones for building purposes, and want of use also helped them to disappear. So at the present day but traces of them are left.

Roads in Wales continued in a bad state for hundreds of years. In fact, until Telford made his great coach road from

London to Holyhead, there was scarcely a decent roadway in the country. Since Telford's road was made numbers of excellent ones have been constructed, and now Carnarvonshire, in common with the rest of the kingdom, has a splendid system, which crosses the county in all directions.

Water, from a very early time, was a convenient medium of travel. The hilly nature of our county, and the nearness of the mountains to the coast, make our rivers short, rapid, and shallow. The Conwy is the only river that is navigable for any distance from its mouth, and on it small vessels make their way as far as Trefriw. Towards the end of the eighteenth century canals were largely cut to cheapen the carriage of goods. From the lack of demand, or from the hilly nature of the county, none of these waterways was made in Carnarvonshire.

Steam became the moving power for engines at the end of the first half of the nineteenth century. Railways and trains were introduced, and from that time so many railways have been made that no place in the country is very far from a railway station. Carnarvonshire had a railway at an early period in the history of steam traffic. For this it has to thank the fact that Holyhead was retained as the packet station whence the American Mails are sent out.

Most of the railways of the county belong to the London & North Western Railway Company. Their main line runs from London and Chester, along the North Wales coast to Menai Bridge, through the Tubular Bridge and on to Holyhead, where it ends. Branches from the main line run into most of the valleys.

Before the railway crosses the Conwy, at Conway, it passes through Llandudno Junction. Two lines branch off from this junction. One, a short one, goes north to Deganwy and Llandudno, and the other runs up the Conwy Valley. It is sometimes in Carnarvonshire, and sometimes

in Denbighshire, and finally joins the Great Western Railway at Blaenau Ffestiniog, in Merionethshire. It passes through Trefriw and Bettws y Coed, and Dolwyddelan.

A short branch from Bangor runs to Bethesda. From Menai Bridge a longer branch runs to Carnarvon, whence it proceeds, via Dinas and Penygroes, to Afonwen, where it joins the Cambrian Railway. The Seiont Valley is served by a line running from Carnarvon to Llanberis. From Penygroes a branch goes up the Llyfni Valley to Nantlle.

The North Wales Narrow Gauge Railway runs from Dinas, through Bettws Garmon, to Snowdon Station. A small branch line on this railway joins Tryfan Junction to Bryngwyn. The south coast of Lleyn, as far as Pwllheli, is served by the Cambrian Railway, which enters the county from Merionethshire at Portmadoc. It runs through Criccieth and Afonwen to Pwllheli. A tramway joins Pwllheli to Llanbedrog.

Mineral lines join the Penrhyn Quarries to Port Penrhyn, and the Dinorwic Quarries to Port Dinorwic. The Toy Railway runs from Blaenau Ffestiniog to Portmadoc. The Snowdon Mountain Railway, the first of its kind in the kingdom, runs from Llanberis to the summit of Y Wyddfa.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Antiquities.—I.

CARNARVONSHIRE is rich in relics of olden days. Traces are found of the inhabitants of the district who lived here hundreds of years before history began to be written. We have already read of some of the things written of in this chapter, but now we shall read of old and

interesting things grouped together into the classes or ages to which they belong.

The oldest traces we have of man are those discovered in the caves at Llandudno. The caves contained the bones of cave-dwellers, who lived here when most of the land was covered by thick forest. In this forest man waged war against many big and fierce animals. These have long since disappeared from our country, and some indeed from the face of the globe. Among them were the mammoth, the cave-bear, the wolf, the rhinoceros, and less fierce animals as deer. The people who hunted these animals used weapons and tools of stone. Some of their weapons are continually being found in various parts of the county. As recently as 1908 a stone hammer was found at the foot of Yr Eifl. The hammer is of oval shape, round at one end and pointed at the other. The centre is pierced for a handle, and the hole is so arranged that the handle would wedge itself into the head. The hammer weighs a little over six pounds.

Next in point of time are the remains of the Ivernians, or New Stone Men. They are of various kinds, and show us how they lived and how they buried their dead. From the mystery that surrounds them, Cromlechau are perhaps the most interesting. A cromlech is a huge stone, which is supported above the ground by three, or four, or more stones fixed in an upright position in the earth. Some people think that they were built by the Druids for some purpose in connection with their religion, but most likely they were burying places for some mighty dead.

The body of the dead man, with tools, weapons, and food, would be placed in a little chamber formed by the pillars and cap-stone of the cromlech. Stones and earth were heaped over the grave and a mound formed. In course of time the stones and earth disappeared, and the contents of the chamber scattered, and the cromlech, as we see it, exposed.

The cromlechau of the county are to be found near, or within easy reach, of the coast. Without taking into consideration some doubtful examples, there are twelve genuine examples of these remains in Carnarvonshire. Letty y Filiast, on Great Orme's Head, a small example, consists of a flat capstone supported on four pillars, each about four and a half feet high. One in the parish of Llandegai is called "Yr Hen Allor," and the one on Cefn Amlwch is known locally as "Coetan Arthur." Two cromlechau stand near Clynnog, the Bachwen and the Penarth cromlechau. The former is a remarkable one, as the capstone has what are known as "cup-marks.' Cefn Isaf Cromlech and Ystum Cegid Cromlech both stand near Criccieth, and on a farm near Four Crosses, known as Cromlech, is another specimen. The others are Cilan Ucha Cromlech, in the parish of Llanengan, the Mynydd Tir Cwmmwd Cromlech, near Llanbedrog, Cwt-y-Bugail Cromlech, near Roewen, and Porth Llwyd Cromlech, near Trefriw.

A Carnedd, or Cairn, was also a burying place, and in this case the heap of stones was raised over a shallow grave. Sometimes a huge, upright stone would mark the site instead of a mound. The grave would often be lined and covered with flat slabs of stones like a chest. This stone-lined grave is known as a *Cist*, or *Cistfaen*. Such cairns and burying places as these are found on several of the mountains around Nevin, as the Eifl group, at Carn Guwch, on Carn Boduan, and in the valley of the Llyfni. Carn Fadryn, near Madryn Ucha, takes its name from one of these mounds, as does Carn Neddol, near Llanbedrog.

Stone Circles were also connected in some way with the dead. There was one near Penmorfa, in Eifionydd. The one near the summit of Penmaenmawr is eighty feet in diameter. It consists of a circle of ten upright stones, with smaller ones between them.

The county is particularly rich in the remains of fortified stations, or towns, of the ancient Britons. They consisted of ramparts of stones, within which were placed the *Cytiau*, or huts, of the inhabitants. They were generally built on high and commanding hills, and no doubt afforded a fairly secure refuge to the inhabitants when enemies attacked them. The finest example is Tre'r Ceiri, on the south-east peak of Yr Eifl. Another good example is Braich y Ddinas, on Penmaenmawr. There were others, on Great Orme's Head, on Conway Mountain, on Carn Fadryn, at Dinas Dinorwig, and Carn Boduan.

Camps and earthworks of a later date than the hill fortresses are to be found. They are mostly the work of the Britons or Romans. When a camp is square we can safely say that it was made by the Romans. These camps were different from the fixed stations, and were sometimes only used for a night. Whenever a body of Roman soldiers had to camp in the field, if only for a single night, they always threw up a square earthwork for defence. The shape of the British camps depends upon the nature of the site, and are either round, or oval, or very often they are irregular in form. Within the earthworks the people built the mud and wattle huts of the village.

The principal camps in the county are Pen y Gaer near Talycafn, Pen y Gaer near Llanddeiniolen, Dinas Dinlle, and several others near Llanwnda, Craig y Ddinas near Llanllyfni, and Castell Odo near Aberdaron. Dinas Dinlle is interesting, as it is said to be a British camp, afterwards occupied by the Romans. Castell Odo is a circular earthwork.

The two chief stations of the Romans were *Segontium* and *Conovium*. There were also two smaller ones, *Dictum* (or Deganwy), and Caer Lleon (The Fort of the Legion) at Aber.

No traces of these two smaller stations now remain, as in both cases the sites have been occupied by later buildings.

It is said that on a hill behind Deganwy stood a Roman watch tower, or Pharos. It was circular, and had a diameter of about thirteen feet. From its position it is thought that Creuddyn promontory was at that time separated from the mainland by the sea flowing over the low-lying land between Llandudno and the mouth of the Conwy. Relics of the Romans are seen in the old lead and copper workings whence they obtained those minerals. A highly interesting discovery was made in 1908, on the seashore between Criccieth and Afonwen. Two thin, round, flat copper cakes, stamped with Roman figures and letters, formed the find. They are now preserved in the Public Library at Criccieth.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Antiquities.—II.

SEVERAL of the ruined castles of the county are said to have been founded hundreds of years before the Normans came into the country. When you read that such and such a castle was founded, say, in A.D. 600, you must not think for a moment that it was anything like the castles at Conway or Carnarvon. The Welsh, before the advent of the Normans, did not build castles of that kind. Their fortresses were constructed of wood, were sometimes built upon a mound, and were frequently defended by a deep ditch and a timber barrier on the edge of the mound. There may have been a stone tower of small size, but even a tower was rarely, if ever, built before the eleventh century.

Even after the Welsh began to construct stone castles in imitation of the Normans, they, as a rule, still retained the characteristic positions of Welsh fortresses, that is, upon commanding eminences which were, if possible, defended by rocky cliffs. Such fortresses were : Dolbadarn, Dolbenmaen, Dolwyddelan, in our county, and Harlech, in Merionethshire; Castell Coch in Glamorganshire; and Dryslwyn, Dynevor, and Carreg Cennen in Carmarthenshire. "On the other hand the chief Norman castles lie comparatively low," as though their builders trusted more to the passive strength of their walls than to the difficulties offered to enemies by natural features. Still the Normans did not ignore natural aids to strength, as rivers, swampy ground, and other physical aids were advantageously secured. Still, the chief castles were built on comparatively low ground, as witness, Conway and Carnarvon in our own county; Beaumaris in Anglesey; Cardiff, Caerphilly and the castles of the Vale in Glamorganshire.

Dolbadarn Castle was built by the Welsh to defend the pass into the interior of Snowdonia. It was a very important post, and was strongly held by the Welsh princes during their wars against the English. The date of its erection is unknown, but Maelgwyn Gwynedd, who lived in the sixth century, is said to have had a castle here. The present ruins are those of a circular tower built in early English times. It is not known when it was demolished, but it seems to have been last held in war-time by Owen Glyndwr.

The site of Deganwy Castle is that of the Roman station *Diclum*. About 600 A.D., Maelgwyn Gwynedd is said to have built a castle on this spot. No ruins of these two buildings remain. Henry III., in 1246, built the castle whose few ruins still remain. The English King and his army here suffered greatly from cold and distress. They were continually harassed by the Welsh under Dafydd ab Llewelyn,

and were glad to retire to a more peaceful region. King John was repulsed here by Llewelyn ab Iorwerth. The Welshmen got behind the English army and cut off their supply of food, thus forcing them to retreat. On a second occasion John was more successful, as his army managed to cross the Conwy, advance as far as Bangor, and burned the city. Deganwy Castle guarded the ford, or ferry, across the mouth of the Conwy in olden days.

Dolbenmaen Castle had a circular tower. No traces of it are now to be seen. No traces exist of Dinas Emrys, which was built on a rock in the Valley of the Glaslyn. It is said to have been built about the year 490 A.D. for Vortigern. Most of the tales about this castle are very doubtful ones.

Dolwyddelan Castle was first built about 500 A.D. All traces of the original building are lost. It was rebuilt many years later, and in it was born one of the bravest of our princes, Llewelyn the Great. The castle was repaired by Meredith ab Evan, in the reign of Henry VII. Some careful restoration was done in the last century to keep this old stronghold from crumbling into a heap of stones. The castle in its prime consisted of two oblong towers with a small court between them. It had the honour of being the last fortress to hold out against Edward I.

Criccieth Castle was rebuilt by Edward I., in 1283 or 1284, probably on the site of a much older fortress. Edward placed in it a garrison of thirty men, a chaplain, and a few mechanics. The pay of these men amounted to £100 a year. It seems a little sum to us now, but we must remember that a pound bought much more in those days than it does now. William de Leyborne was made constable, or keeper, of the castle. In the reign of Edward III., this office was filled by the valiant Sir Howel y Fwyall.

Conway and Carnarvon Castles were built at the same time as Criccieth. As we have read of these in a former chapter

we shall pass on to Aber Castle. Aber Castle was built by Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, about the year 1230. It was more of a fortified house that a regular castle, and it stood on the site of the old Roman station of Caer Lleon, on the mound now known as Y Mwd.

Some old ruins and houses are of interest, though they are not castles. We have already read of most of these in previous chapters. On the shores of the Llyn Geirionydd is a heap of stones, which are said to have formed the house of the Bard Taliesin. The house is supposed to have been built about the year 560, so it is no wonder that it is such a shapeless ruin. Llys Dinorwig, near Llanddeiniolen, was a palace of Llewelyn ab Griffith. It is not known by whom it was built.

The ancients not only built houses devoted to war, but also those whose ways were those of peace. Of Bardsey Abbey we have read. It was first founded about the year 500 A.D., and there are but few remains. Beddgelert Monastery was also founded about the some time, and afterwards became a Priory of the Augustines. The abbey was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt by Edward I. in 1283. The church is the only part now remaining. An ancient monastery of somewhat later date than Bardsey, or Beddgelert, stood at Clynnog Fawr.

The church is the only part left of the Abbey of Aber Conwy (or Conway). It was an abbey of the Cistercian monks, and was founded by Llewelyn ab Iorwerth in 1185. The church contains several interesting, but not ancient, tombs. Maenan Abbey was founded by Edward I. in 1283. He founded it in place of Aber Conwy Abbey, which he removed hither when he built and fortified the town of Conway. The body of Llewelyn ab Iorwerth was brought from Conway to Maenan at the time of the latters foundation. The remains

of the abbey are not easily seen, as they form part of the modern mansion that now stands on the site.

The Hospital of Yspytty Ifan was founded shortly after the year 1110. It was a hospice of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, who were suppressed through all England and Wales in 1312. In the Church of Yspytty Ifan are some interesting tombs. They are those of Rhys Fawr ab Meredith, his wife, and son Rhys Fawr bore the standard of Henry VII. at Bosworth Field after Sir William Brandon was slain. His son, Rhys, was a cleric. He distinguished himself in the Church and became cross-bearer and chaplain to Henry VIII.'s powerful minister, Cardinal Wolsey.

CHAPTER XXXV.

Ancient Inhabitants of the County.

THE first people who lived in Carnarvonshire and Britain that we have any knowledge of were short folks with long skulls, small bones and dark hair. They made their homes in caves in the rocks, and, where they could not find these, they made little caves in the earth and dwelt there. Sometimes a little hut, or collection of huts, of wattle and mud, with thatched roofs, built on an island in a lake, or on piles driven into the shores of a lake, would form the home of these little folks.

They lived by hunting and fishing, and helped out their food with a little milk when they had cows. They must have found it hard to live, as their weapons and tools were simple instruments made of wood, horn, bone, or simply of rough stone. Their wood-knowledge must have been great, else

they could not war against the fierce animals that roamed in the forest, or escape from them. Wood-knowledge, too, was wanted to hunt and slay the animals necessary to provide them with food. There are very few remains of these people in the county.

In time another race crossed over to Britain from the Continent of Europe. They were called Ivernians, were taller than the cave or mound dwellers, were better armed, and were fonder of fighting. So when the Ivernians came the little folks who lived in Britain before them had to flee to wild and rugged parts of the country, or become slaves of the stronger race.

The Ivernians were about "the middle height, with blue or grey eyes, and brown or dark hair." The family to which they belonged was spread over the south-west of Europe and over the north of Africa. They believed in a God, and that the soul could not die; that men had another life beyond the grave. Their priests were the Druids, and such wonderful structures as Stonehenge were their work. Learned men tell us that Stonehenge was raised nearly 4,000 years ago, so you can see how very, very long ago it is since the Ivernians lived in our land.

The Ivernians had better tools and weapons than the cave-dweller. His stone-axes and arrow heads were finely shaped and polished. He understood the sling and could throw a stone with good strength and aim. We in Carnarvonshire must feel very interested in the Ivernians, for it is said that some of the hill-fortresses, and all the Cromlechau of the county were built by them.

Following the Ivernians came the Celts. These people came in two great waves. The first wave, or family, that came was that called the Goidel. The Goidels were tall, fair, and strong. Armed with bronze weapons, and fighting in a better manner than the Ivernians, they soon managed

to win land for themselves. They either drove out the Ivernian settlers or made them their slaves. Tribe after tribe came until the Ivernians lost all their best lands and had to retire into the wilder regions to settle amongst the descendants of the cave-dwellers, whom their forefathers had driven to the same districts.

The second family of Celts was that of the Brython. The Brython was very much like the Goidel, and, as both people were strong and brave, many battles had to be fought before the Brython could obtain a footing in the land. Another Celtic wave followed the Brython, that of the Belgae, but these people never reached into Wales. Many bronze remains of the Celtic people have been dug up in various parts of the county.

When the Romans came into the country the Brythons held a great part of what is now England. They had pushed themselves across Mid-Wales, but they had no footing in what is now Carnarvonshire. Here the people were the Goidels, who had married with the Ivernians, and the two races had become one people. Later the Brythons mixed with the Goidels, again forming one people.

During the last few years of the Roman occupation numbers of Irish Celts settled in some parts of the county and were never driven out entirely, though they were subdued by bands of Brythonic Celts from the North of England and Scotland that settled in Wales in the sixth century. In time both the Irish settlers and the Northern Celts mixed with the more ancient inhabitants, and thus we see that the Welsh people of Carnarvonshire are the descendants of the mixed Celtic families and the Ivernians we have just read about.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Roman Times.

THE first serious Roman invasion was that in 43 A.D., under the command of Aulus Plautius. This Roman army landed in the south of Britain, and conquered the southern part of England as far as the Severn. Aulus Plautius made no attempt on the district now called Wales, and after seven years of fighting and settling the country he was recalled to Rome.

A Roman general named Ostorius Scapula succeeded him in command of the army. Ostorius's first big march was into the country of Decangi, a tribe whose district included the present county of Carnarvon. Little opposition was offered to him, and the Roman army marched into sight of the western sea. Ostorius did not stay to settle the country, but was forced to return, as a rebellion had broken out in the plains to his rear.

He did not come again to the country of the Decangi, and that tribe had peace until the year 61 A.D. In that year Suetonius Paulinus marched into North Wales and subdued its inhabitants. He determined to conquer the island of Môn, the place of refuge for all who fled from the power of the Romans, and the headquarters of the Druids. Though the Druidic religion was the religion of the Ivernians, it had been adopted by the Goidels and Brythons, and the Druids were great powers in the land.

The Roman general built a number of flat-bottomed boats to carry his foot soldiers across the narrow strip of water that divided the island from the mainland, and the horse

soldiers swam their horses across. The Roman army was not allowed to land without a struggle. The British forces lined the opposite shores in dense masses, among them being numbers of women with their long hair floating in the wind. The Druids, clad in their robes, encouraged the army to drive back the invaders from the sacred isle and called on all their gods to help them.

For a time the wild appearance of their opponents and the terrible noises they made struck terror into the hearts of the Roman soldiers, and it seemed that they would be driven back from Môna's shores. They soon overcame their fright and, as always happened when Roman and Briton met hand to hand, the invaders won the victory. Priests, soldiers and women were slaughtered, and the sacred groves and temples of the Druids were cut down and destroyed.

Like Ostorius, Suetonius had to return, as a rebellion had again broken out behind the Roman army. Under Julius Frontinus and Julîus Agricola they again returned and fastened their hold on the land. Agricola garrisoned Môn, and Segontium became the great station of the Romans in the north-west of Wales.

From that time until the Romans left Britain they ruled the district, and the people of the Decangi did not rebel against their rule. The Romans did a lot of good in the district. They made their roads and built their stations. They encouraged trade and taught the Britons the use of money. They also taught their arts and introduced the Roman civilization. New plants and trees were introduced and better methods of cultivation were shown to the people. During this period, too, Christianity was introduced, and the religion of the Druids became a thing of the past, except in wild and lonely districts.

Rome ruled in Britain for nearly four hundred years. Towards the end of their occupation they were not nearly so

strong as they had been formerly, and could not protect the outlying districts. As we have already read, bands of Irish Celts began to make settlements in Wales, one man named Seirgi establishing himself as a king in Môn. After the Roman left the country, the Celts in Wales sent an embassy to the Brythons of the North asking for aid against the Irish invaders. Consequently a body under Cunedda and his sons arrived and wrested from the Irish the lands they had taken and established themselves in their places. The chief centre of the new arrivals seems to have been at Deganwy, and soon they made almost the whole of Wales subject to them and gave to the country a line of kings.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

The Kings of All Britain.

THE first of the Kings of all Britain after the departure of the Romans was Vortigern. We are told that there were several Vortigerns, and that Vortigern was not a man's name but a title. However that may be, one Vortigern, feeling that the Britons could not drive back the Picts and Scots from the North, got them to call in the aid of the Saxons. You will read of what followed in your history books.

Vortigern, seeing that he had helped to bring in a people that threatened to overcome his own in time, felt afraid, and fled for shelter to the remote mountains of Wales. It is said he had a castle built for him on a rock in the Glaslyn Valley. Still fearing, he fled for greater security to the lonely recesses of Nant Gwrtheyrn, in Lleyn. Here he died, and the site of his supposed grave is still to be seen.

About 477 A.D. Emrys (Ambrosius) became King of all Britain, or Gwledig, as the title runs in Welsh. He was partly a Roman, but threw in his lot with the Celts. Many tribes of Jutes, Angles and Saxons landed in Britain during his reign. Emrys died in 500, and he was followed as Gwledig by the great King Arthur. Arthur's life was one long struggle against the Saxons. His fame is known nearly all over the world, and "so famous was he, that in after years almost every brave deed done by the Welsh were said to have been done by him." Arthur fell in the Battle of Camlan in 542, fighting against his rebellious nephew Modred. For many years the Britons fondly thought that one day he would return to lead them against the Saxons and help them to drive the invaders from the land.

Four years after the death of Arthur, Maelgwn Gwynedd became Gwledig. He was of the race of Cunedda, who had first settled in Wales during the last years of the Roman occupation. He was King of Gwynedd, and from his time the office of Gwledig was handed down from father to son until the death of the last Gwledig, Cadwaladr the Blessed. We, in Carnarvonshire, are more interested in Maelgwn and those rulers that followed him than those who went before, for they ruled for a time from Deganwy, within the borders of our own county.

An old story tell us how Maelgwn became Gwledig. The British chiefs had gathered together at Aberdovey to choose their king. It was decided that he who could sit longest in his chair on the sea-shore, in spite of the rising tide, was to reign over all. A wise man named Maeldaf the Old, had provided a chair for Maelgwn made of waxed wings, which floated on the surface when all the other chairs had been thrown down by the water. Thus Maelgwn became Gwledig. Of course, it is only a story, for most probably Maelgwn con-

quered the other chiefs by advancing from Deganwy with his army.

By the time that Maelgwn became king the Saxons had established themselves firmly in many parts of England, and had founded several kingdoms. He died of plague in 546, and his sons and grandsons had to fight hard to keep the invaders from spreading further. In Rhun's time Gwynedd suffered sorely from a Saxon raid, and Rhun's son, Iago, fell at the Battle of Chester in 613.

Iago's grandson, Cadwallon the Lion, became Gwledig about the year 630. He made a great attempt to win back the lands lost to the Welsh after the Battle of Chester, and to make the title of King of all Britain something more than a name. At first the Saxons invaded Gwynedd and drove Cadwallon to Ireland. He returned in 633, and after much fighting he defeated, with the assistance of Penda of Mercia, his great opponent, Edwin of Northumbria.

The Battle of Heathfield, as it is called, gave Cadwallon the rule of the North, but he only held it for a year, as he was defeated and killed by Oswald, in 634, at the Battle of Hefenfield. Cadwallon was succeeded by his son, Cadwaladr the Blessed. He failed to drive back the Saxons, and the North of England was for ever lost to the Welsh. Cadwaladr died in 664, and with him the title of Gwledig, or King of all Britain, was lost to the Princes of Wales.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

The Kings of Wales.

AS we have already read, the title of "King of All Britain" was last used by Cadwaladr the Blessed, and for some time the ruler of the Cymry was known as the King of Wales. Until 720 there was no real head of the Cymry, so the Saxons were able to win lands from them without much difficulty, as there was no combined action against them. Many battles were fought, in which the Saxons were generally the victors.

At last a strong prince arose in Gwynedd, and he managed to make himself King of Wales. He was named Rhodri Molwynog, and reigned from 720 to 755. Rhodri played an important part in the wars of his time, and now the Saxons did not have it all their own way. After his death the kingdom was again divided, as his two sons—Conan and Howell—instead of joining together against the common enemy, fought each other to decide who should be chief. While they were quarrelling, Cenwulf of Mercia led an army into North Wales, and raided the best parts of Gwynedd. Before the Mercians returned they burnt Deganwy, the old home of the race of Cunedda.

Not only were the Cymry troubled with Civil War and the attacks of the Saxons, but the dreaded Danes also made their appearance on their shores. The "Black Pagans," as the Welsh called them, raided the whole of the west coast and struck terror into the hearts of the people. Conan defeated his brother in 779, and that put an end to the civil war. Conan was now able to turn against the Saxons. He defeated them

on several occasions, but his greatest victory was in 755, when he won the Battle of Coed Marchen. Conan died in 815, and left a daughter, Essyllt, to succeed him.

Essyllt married Mervyn of Powys, and they reigned together in Gwynedd. Hardly had they come to the throne than King Egbert of England marched an army into Carnarvonshire and Anglesey. Mervyn was unable to drive the English back, and Egbert subdued the north of Wales. The Welsh, though they had been defeated, did not rest quietly under the yoke, for they again attacked their enemies. Mervyn was slain while fighting against the English in Montgomeryshire in the year 844.

After the death of Mervyn, Wales was again to know the blessing of having a strong prince. He was Rhodri the Great, the son of Mervyn and Essyllt. He became King of Wales in fact as well as in name, and united the Cymry against their foes. These were not so much the Saxons as the Danes, who had become very troublesome.

Rhodri is often compared to Alfred the Great, who ruled at the same time and also fought so often against the Danes. A writer says: "In 868, Rhodri the Great of Wales, and Alfred the Great of England, were the only two rulers in all Britain whom the Danes had not defeated." Strange to say, a few years later both rulers had to escape into hiding from their enemies. In 876 Rhodri had to seek shelter in Ireland, and in 878 Alfred was in hiding in the Isle of Athelney. Both rulers, however, returned to their people; but Rhodri came back as the ally of the Danes against the Mercians. In 877 Rhodri was in Môn, and was suddenly attacked by a Mercian army. Being unprepared for battle, the Welsh were defeated, and Rhodri and his brother were slain.

Anarawd, son of Rhodri Mawr, became King of Wales after his father's death, and he also fought many battles against the Danes. He joined Alfred

of Wessex to fight them, but, in spite of their efforts, the Danes, in 895 and 902, raided Gwynedd and Môn. In 880 the Danes and Mercians joined together to attack North Wales. They were met by an army under the command of Anarawd. A fierce battle was fought at Conway, and the Danes and Mercians were defeated with great slaughter.

Anarawd died in 915, and Idwal the Bald succeeded him in Gwynedd. Howell Dda, of South Wales, became King of Wales. In 940, King Edmund of England invaded Gwynedd. He was helped by the Danes, and in the fight that followed Idwal was killed. Howell Dda now made himself King of Gwynedd, and ruled the whole of Wales strongly and well until his death about 949.

Howell Dda was a wise and strong King, but his fame rests chiefly upon his work as a legislator. He, helped by the most learned men in Wales, collected all the laws and customs of the Cymry and set them in order. Some additions were made, and the laws then written down were to be obeyed through all the country. Though these laws are not in force at the present day, they are very valuable, because they show us how Welsh people lived nearly one thousand years ago.

For many years after Howell Dda's death the condition of the country was pitiable. There were no strong rulers, and the Cymry fought much among themselves. Of course, the Danes and English were quick to take advantage of these family quarrels, and raided the country very often. As they had no serious opposition to fight against, they generally succeeded in going back to their homes laden with spoil.

This state of affairs went on for fifty years, until in 1015, Llewelyn ab Seisyllt, a South Walian, made himself King of Wales. Llewelyn was the husband of Angharad, daughter of Meredith, a descendant of Cadell, son of Rhodri the Great. He ruled well, but was slain through the treachery of Madoc

Fin, Bishop of Bangor, and once more Wales was the scene of bitter civil war.

In 1038, Gruffydd, the son of Llewelyn ab Seisyllt, claimed Gwynedd and Wales. He fought another claimant, Iago son of Idwal Fychan, and defeated him. Gruffydd defeated, near the banks of the Severn in 1039, a mixed army of Danes, Mercians and discontented Welsh. He thus made his country safe for a short time from the attacks of the English. The English, however, came again, and during his long reign he met and defeated them several times. He became so bold that he made several raids into English ground.

To punish Gruffydd and the Welsh for these raids, Earl Harold Godwin made two expeditions into Wales. Wales was united, and Gruffydd faced the English boldly. He could not guard against treachery, and, when he was preparing to meet the forces of Harold and Tostig during the second invasion, he was basely betrayed by Madoc Fin. Gruffydd was slain, and his head was sent to England to Edward the Confessor. Thus fell one of the greatest of the Welsh Kings, on August 5th, 1063.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

The Kings of Wales.—II.

THE death of Gruffydd was the signal for another outbreak of the family quarrels that made Wales so weak. Harold, therefore, had no difficulty in subduing the country, and before he left Wales he placed it under the joint rule of Bleddyn and Rhiwallon, half-brothers of Gruffydd. The sons of Gruffydd tried to win back their father's crown. A battle

was fought in 1067, and Rhiwallon was slain. Bleddyn managed to keep the throne until 1073, when he was killed in Ystrad Towy while putting down a rebellion. He was succeeded by Trahaiarn, who had married Angharad, the daughter of Idwal Fychan. He reigned for six years, and fell at last in one of the battles of the civil war that had lasted almost the whole of his reign. His conqueror, Gruffydd, the son of Conan ab Idwal Fychan, became king in his stead.

The Norman conquered England in 1066. Numbers of the Saxons still held out against William, and in 1067 and 1069 Welsh forces helped some of these Saxons against the garrisons of Hereford and Shrewsbury. William led an army against the allies. The English submitted, and the Welsh retired into the mountains.

The English Kings allowed the Norman knights to hold any lands they might win in Wales, so for the next two hundred years the Welsh princes and chieftains had to fight a foe that was constantly trying to rob them of their lands. During this period the history of Carnarvonshire and of Wales is that of a long struggle on the part of the Welsh to retain their lands and their independence.

Gruffydd ab Conan came to the throne about the year 1079. He at once set about restoring order in Gwynedd, but through the base treachery of a countryman, Meirion Goch, he fell into the hands of Hugh of Chester and was thrown into a dungeon in Chester Castle. Gwynedd was without a head and the clansmen without a leader. Hugh of Chester could, therefore, work his wicked will throughout the north of Wales. To secure his hold of the country he built castles in Carnarvon and Bangor, and in Merioneth and Môn. The cause of the Welsh seemed hopeless.

After years of imprisonment—some say six, and some say twelve—Gruffydd ab Conan was freed from his bonds. Cynric the Tall carried him into safety, fetters and all, from under

Rescue of Gruffydd ab Cynan.

the very noses of the garrison of Chester Castle. Once freed, Gruffydd gathered a force together to attack the enemies of his race. Robert of Rhuddlan had built a castle at Deganwy, the old home of Cunedda's race. To the mouth of the Conwy Gruffydd sailed his ships, and from under the walls of the Norman castle carried away sheep and cattle, leaving the Norman lord headless, and many of his men corpses upon the strand. All Wales was now on fire, and by 1094 the Normans were driven out of all their castles but two. Two years later they only held the strong castle of Pembroke.

William Rufus made two expeditions into Wales, but failed to restore the Normans to the lands from which they had been driven. In 1098, however, the Earls of Chester and Shrewsbury raided Gwynedd, and Gruffydd was forced to flee to Ireland. Terrible was now the revenge of the Norman. Hugh the Wolf made Arfon a desert, for not only did he drive away the sheep, cattle and horses, but he also carried away the people into captivity.

Griffith returned in 1100, and taking advantage of the troubles in England, he won back Gwynedd. He paid back the Normans for their cruelties in Gwynedd, and raided the Norman lands far into England. Richard Earl of Chester complained to Henry I., and the English King marched into Wales. In the end Gruffydd paid a fine, and the English retired from the country.

Gwynedd now had some peace, which, but for family quarrels, continued until the death of Henry I. During Stephen's reign Gruffydd joined his son-in-law, Gruffydd ab Rhys, of South Wales, against the Normans, and these two carried all before them. In 1137 Gruffydd ab Conan, the last of the Kings of Wales, died, and was buried in Bangor Cathedral.

CHAPTER XL.

THE PRINCES OF WALES.—I.

Owen Gwynedd and his Sons.

GRUFFYDD left Wales fairly free of the Norman invaders. Still, they came again. They were not the people to leave lands in the hands of others which they might win for themselves by fighting for them. The wars between the two races went on, and Gruffydd's son, the great Owen Gwynedd, fought bravely for the next thirty years or so to keep them out. From the time of Owen Gwynedd, the old chroniclers drop the title of *King* of Wales, and use that of *Prince* of Wales, for the head of the Welsh nation.

Three times did Henry II. invade the land, but on no occasion did he conquer the stout-hearted Owen. Henry's first invasion was in 1156, when he attacked the country by land and sea. The army advanced from Chester, but was badly defeated at Coed Eulo. A further attack on Owen's rear was changed into a panic of the English forces, and Henry himself was in great danger of losing his life. The fleet, which was intended to ravage Môn and the north coast, landed a force in Môn. This force was attacked so fiercely that but very few escaped to return to the ships. In face of such disasters, Henry made peace and returned to England.

The second invasion was into South Wales. This does not concern us here, but we may learn that Henry, after a few skirmishes, made peace rather than have a serious war on his hands. In 1164 the English King came again into

Wales. This time he had to meet a united country, and as he knew he had a difficult task before him, he gathered together a vast host. He brought with him "the choice warriors of England, Normandy, Flanders, Anjou, Gascony, and all Scotland," and intended to "exile and undo all the Britons."

All Wales joined to meet him, and the advance of his troops was difficult. The Welsh watched for every chance to pounce down upon the English army, and his troops dared not move from camp to search for food for themselves and their horses, for fear they might be cut off. The weather made matters worse, and things went so badly that the English had to retire, losing men at almost every step.

This was Henry's last attempt to overcome the Cymry, and Owen Gwynedd reigned in peace in Wales. He cleared every castle in Gwynedd of his Norman foes, and, having restored peace and prosperity to his country, the first of the Princes of Wales died in 1169, and was buried before the High Altar in Bangor Cathedral.

Owen Gwynedd left several sons, and Howell became Prince of Gwynedd, although he had an elder brother Iorwerth Drwyndwn. According to an old Welsh law, Iorwerth could not became prince, as he was disfigured by a broken nose. Howell went to Ireland, and during his absence his half-brothers, David and Rhodri, captured Gwynedd. Civil war, of course, followed, and a battle was fought at Pentraeth. David was the victor, and Howell was slain. To make his position safe, David drove out from Gwynedd all possible claimants to the throne.

Rhodri, who had been imprisoned by his brother, escaped in 1176, and won from him all Gwynedd that was not in Norman hands, but in 1190, David won back most of the country. Another claimant appeared in 1194. He was Llewelyn, the son of Iorwerth Drwyndwn. Aided by the

Princes of Powys, to whom he was related, Llewelyn defeated David at Aber Conwy, and Rhodri at the Battle of Porth Aethwy. Llewelyn now became prince, and though his uncle David made two attempts against him, he succeeded in retaining the crown.

It was during Rhodri's reign (A.D. 1188) that Archbishop Baldwin made his famous journey through Wales. The Archbishop entered Carnarvonshire from Merionethshire, and spent Palm Sunday at Nevin. From Nevin he went to Carnarvon, and Bangor, thence crossing over to Anglesey. He returned to Bangor, thence travelling along the coast through Conway into Denbighshire.

CHAPTER LXI.

THE PRINCES OF WALES.—II.

Llewelyn the Great and David his Son.

LLEWELYN AB IORWERTH, called Llewelyn the Great, won his grandfather's crown in 1194. For over fifty years he ruled Gwynedd and Wales, and also played a great part in the history of England as well. Indeed, we read that without his help, the English barons could not have forced King John to sign the Magna Charta.

King John saw what manner of man Llewelyn was, and tried to make him his ally by giving him his daughter, Joan, in marriage. Troubles at home kept Llewelyn busy for some time, as the Princes of Powys did their best to oppose him, as they did not like being subject to the Prince of Gwynedd. He, however, became master of Powys and ruler over the whole of Wales. He was now too powerful a ruler to please

John, so the English King made preparations to invade Wales.

King John marched from Chester through Rhuddlan as far as Deganwy. The English found that the Welsh had retired to the mountains, taking with them all their flocks and goods. Llewelyn's men surrounded the English army and prevented any messages, food, or fodder from being taken into their camp. John and his troops suffered much from famine, and in the end were forced to retreat.

Later in the same year, 1211, John led another army into Gwynedd. The English entered the country from the south and encamped on the Conwy. They crossed the river and succeeded in reaching Bangor. Llewelyn was now in danger, and made haste to send his wife to ask her father to make peace. John consented, and Llewelyn was forced to do homage to his father-in-law.

In 1212, Llewelyn was in arms again, and forced the Welsh rulers to do homage to him. John was angered, and gathered together an army "to wipe out all the Welsh nation." Like other generals and kings who made this same threat, and there were several, he failed to do so, and dismissed his army before he even reached Wales. Llewelyn was now the greatest man in Wales, and, as we have already read, he joined the English barons to make war against John. When Magna Charta was drawn up, three clauses were put into it to protect Llewelyn's interests.

Though Llewelyn was so strong, he had to fight against the English barons in Wales, and against discontented Welsh chieftains. But the more he fought the stronger he became, and he seems to have won nearly all his battles. To show you how strong Llewelyn became, you need only be reminded that he hanged a powerful English baron, William de Braose—a deed which even a King of England dared not do.

Perhaps the greatest of Llewelyn's deeds was not one of war, but one of peace—the forming of a National Council, or Parliament. This Council was formed of the Welsh princes and chiefs. It met at Aberdovey, and was intended to settle all those family quarrels which made Wales so weak against a foreign foe. To rebel against Llewelyn, or to quarrel one with the other, was to quarrel with the Council. The Council then made it its business to put down all feuds, and as long as it lasted, the Welsh were united together.

Llewelyn died in 1240 after a reign of fifty-five years. His death was mourned by the whole nation, for he had given his people a new lease of life, and under him the Welsh race, the Welsh language, and the Welsh traditions were strengthened and uplifted. Sad to say, that after his death his country fell away from his high ideals, and under the rule of his son David became disunited once more.

The first couple of years of David's reign were years of civil war, which only ended when Gruffydd, David's elder brother, was safe in the hands of Henry III. Gruffydd was killed while escaping from the Tower of London, but he left four sons—Owen, Llewelyn, David and Rhodri—to try to win back their great grandfather's throne.

In 1244, the year of Gruffydd's death, David was forced to rebel against the English King. Henry brought an army into Wales. Though defeated in several battles, and though he failed to conquer the Welsh, Henry succeeded in wasting a great deal of the country. Pestilence and famine made matters worse, and David submitted to the English King. David died in 1246, and was buried at Aber Conwy.

CHAPTER XLII.

Henry III. in Wales, 1245.

YOU read in the last chapter that David revolted against the English. In April, 1244 he raided the border lands and worsted the English in several encounters. In August he was himself defeated, but in two other engagements he was the victor. Henry at first refused to come to the help of his barons, but in January, of 1245, David and the other Welsh chiefs were summoned to appear before the King. They refused, and after further fighting against the barons, in which the Welsh had the better of it, Henry, in August, marched an army into Wales.

The King's intention was to conquer the country, but a defeat made him halt at Deganwy. Here he made a camp and set about repairing, or re-building, Deganwy Castle. The English were so closely besieged by the Welsh that famine set in in the camp, and the invaders suffered great hardships. How much they suffered you shall learn from a letter written by one of the English knights to a friend in England. The letter was written in September. Here it is :

"Health!" it begins. "Our Lord the King prolongs his stay at Gannock (Deganwy), fortifying the castle. We lie around it in our tents, in watchings, fastings, and prayers, in cold and nakedness. We watch against the Welsh, who do not spare us even in the night. We fast, because provisions are so scanty, that a farthing loaf costs fivepence. We pray that we may get home again safely. And we are in cold and nakedness, because we live in linen houses, and have no winter clothes with us.

"A small arm of the sea runs by this castle, like a harbour. Into it ships from Ireland and Chester often come bringing us food. It divides us from Snowdon, where the Welsh are; and when the tide is in, it is a cross-bow-bolt flight across. On the Monday before Michaelmas-day (Sept. 25 in that year) after nones (noon-day service), an Irish ship, bringing food for sale to us, happened to come into this harbour. Being carelessly steered, it ran around on the Welsh side, opposite our camp; and lay there dry, when the tide ebbed.

"The Welsh lost no time in attacking it, of course. We seeing that, sent over in boats three hundred of our Welsh, from the Marches of Cheshire and Shropshire, with cross-bow men, and fully armed knights to defend it. Thereupon the Welsh fled into the woods and mountains with the greatest haste. Our men chased them for a couple of leagues, and wounded and slew many. Returning excited by success, and bent upon mischief in the enemy's ground, amongst other profane deeds, they plundered the Cistercian Abbey of Aber Conwy of its books and chalices, and burnt part of it.

"Meanwhile the Welsh had collected in greater numbers, and rushing suddenly with fearful shouts and whoopings, upon ours, as, laden with spoil, and much more burdened with sinfulness, they fled to the ship, they routed, wounded, and killed many of them. Some, rather than fall into their hands, threw themselves into the harbour and perished; and some were taken prisoners. But when the Welsh heard that some of their chiefs had fallen, they hanged, and beheaded, nay, even tore their captives to pieces. . . We lost in that conflict some brave knights of the Earl of Cornwall's train . . ; a cross-bowman of Gascony, named Raymond, about whom the King used often to joke; and some hundred others, besides those drowned. The Welsh lost as many, or more.

"Walter Bisset was, with his men, all this time in the ship, which they manfully defended till near midnight against the unceasing attacks of the Welsh; the vessel's sides serving them for walls. The tide then rising drove away the assailants; and we, in our boats brought them off.

"Next morning the ship was dry again, and the Welsh hurried down, hoping to have seized them. Although they were disappointed in that, they carried off nearly all the sixty casks of wine and other provisions intended for us. They then set fire to the vessel and dispersed. We afterwards towed the vessel, half-burnt, to our side, and found in it, to our joy, seven casks uninjured.

"We have often, in our foraging expeditions, to run great risks from the ambuscades of the enemy. We often inflict severe losses on them—from one skirmish were brought back nearly a hundred heads! About that time we were so badly off for provisions, that we lost a great many, both men and horses. Once there was not in the whole camp above a single cask of wine; and a pastured ox sold for three or four marks (1 mark = 13/4), and a hen for eightpence! Farewell!"

Such then was the experience of an English knight. The lack of provisions caused Henry to strike camp. He crossed to Môn and ravaged the island with fire and sword, and devastated the borders of Gwynedd to prevent the Welsh from obtaining food. He also commanded that no provisions should be supplied from England and Ireland, and then retired to England, leaving a waste land behind him, but without conquering the Welsh.

CHAPTER XLIII.

THE PRINCES OF WALES.—III.

Llewelyn Ein Llyw Olaf.

DAVID AB LLEWELYN had agreed that if he died without leaving a son, Henry III. should be his heir. This, however, was not the idea of the sons of Gruffydd, for Owen and Llewelyn seized Gwynedd when their uncle died. Henry sent a large army into Gwynedd, and the princes were forced to agree that they should only rule over as much of Gwynedd as lay west of the Conwy and north of the Dyfi. If you will only look at your map of Wales, you will see that this district covers the present counties of Merionethshire, Carnarvonshire, and Anglesey.

The condition of Wales at this time was sad. A hard frost had destroyed all plants and crops, and a heavy fall of snow followed the frost, bringing about a famine. Add to this the fact that Henry's army had just ravaged the land, and you will see how very hard it was for the people. Famine always breeds pestilence, and this horror was added to the others.

So weak had the people become that if they had seed they would not have been strong enough to till the land. The famine was so severe that we read that the Bishop of St. David's died of grief and hunger. The Bishop of Llandaff became blind from much weeping, and the Bishops of St. Asaph and Bangor were compelled to beg for bread and live on the charity of others.

Better times came, and the land recovered itself again. Then came another of those family quarrels which are so

common in Welsh history. David and Owen became jealous of their brother Llewelyn, and in 1254 they gathered an army against him. Llewelyn defeated the rebels at Bryn Derwin, and captured his brothers. Owen was thrown into Dolbadarn Castle, and David, after a little time, was allowed to go into England.

Llewelyn's lands now had peace, but in the Four Cantrefs, the land to the east of the Conwy, the English bitterly oppressed the Welsh. A number of these ill-treated people begged Llewelyn to help them to drive out their foes. Stirred by their woeful tales, he consented, and the Welsh of the North were in arms once more. "Llewelyn drew the sword; in six days he swept the Four Cantrefs clean of the oppressors, save only the great castles of Diserth and Deganwy." This was in 1256.

Southwards Llewelyn went, and was everywhere victorious. In 1257, Prince Edward of England attempted with a big fleet to "crush the Welsh as a potter's vessel," but his fleet, however, was beaten at sea. In July of the same year Henry sent a great army into Wales. This army attacked in the north and south of the country, and was helped by a fleet which threatened the coast. To the English the only result of the war was that Henry managed to strengthen the garrisons of Diserth and Deganwy. By 1258, Llewelyn was so successful that he was able to call together the National Council of the chiefs, first formed by his grandfather, Llewelyn the Great.

The power of Llewelyn and the Council kept Wales united. Meredydd ab Rhys of South Wales rebelled against Llewelyn. He was seized by order of the Council, was condemned of treason, and was imprisoned in Criccieth Castle. Llewelyn now joined Simon de Montfort against Henry III., and the Treaty of Montgomery was signed, by which

Llewelyn was recognised as the "Prince of Wales." This treaty was afterwards confirmed by Henry himself.

Peace, except for some wars between the Welsh and the Lords Marcher, was now granted to the Welsh. This lasted until after the death of Henry, in 1272. Troubles did not come again until the return of Edward, now Edward I., in 1274. Edward summoned Llewelyn to do homage to him, and this question of homage was the cause of the trouble.

Llewelyn was willing to do homage to Edward, but because the King refused to give him hostages for his safety, he would not go to meet him. After many summonses from Edward, and the passage of many letters between the two princes, war again broke out in 1277. Great preparations were made by Edward, and, of course, the Welsh did their best to make ready for the fray.

The English army advanced in four divisions, one headed by Edward himself coming by way of Chester and Rhuddlan, the others marching into Mid and South Wales. A fleet under David, Llewelyn's brother, sailed against Môn. This powerful array was too strong for Llewelyn, and he made peace with Edward and signed the Treaty of Rhuddlan.

By this treaty Llewelyn agreed to give up much of the land he had won; the title was to cease at his death; he was only allowed to retain the homage of the five Lords of Snowdon. He had to pay a fine to be allowed to keep Môn. Owen was to be set free and to be given Lleyn for his own, and David, his traitor brother, was to have two of the Four Cantrefs.

Llewelyn, shorn of most of his power, was now allowed to marry Eleanor de Montfort, whom the King had kept prisoner for some years. The Welsh Prince also did homage to the English King for the few lands he had been allowed to keep. The Welsh settled down peaceably, and hoped that the English King and his barons would give them quiet. It

was not to be, as the barons oppressed the Welsh until they once more revolted. The revolt broke out in March, 1280, and the people determined to make one more bold effort to win the freedom of their distressed country.

The fire was kindled in the Four Cantrefs. David, the once traitor, captured Hawarden Castle on March 21st, and on the same day a Welsh army burnt Flint and Rhuddlan. The flame spread southwards until the whole country was ablaze. Llewelyn went south, and left his brother in command of the army in the north.

Edward at once gathered an immense army and advanced from Chester in July. Slowly the Welsh under David retired before him, and at last crossed the Conwy into Arfon. The English halted here and Edward sent his fleet to attack Môn. Môn, "the finest feather in Llewelyn's tail," fell. This was a heavy blow to the Welsh, and, of course, the English were delighted with the victory.

A truce was made so that the two rulers might try to come to terms, but it was broken by the English. The leader of the English army in Môn built a bridge of boats across the Menai at Moel y Don. "He thought to surprise Llewelyn's men and make an end of the war with his single army. On November 6th he crossed the bridge of boats to the Arvon side, but what he ended was himself and his army, for Llewelyn's army fell upon it and utterly destroyed it."

This victory made matters brighter for the Welsh, and Llewelyn hurried to the help of the men of the south. He hurried to his death. While in the neighbourhood of Builth he was set upon by a band of English soldiers. The Welsh Prince, unarmed as he was, no doubt did his best, but the fight was unequal, and he fell pierced by the spear of Adam de Francton, an English soldier. When he was dead they saw that they had slain Llewelyn. Rejoicing greatly, they sent his head to Edward, and the English King, to his shame

be it said, insulted the remains of his fallen enemy. Thus died Llewelyn the Last, and with his death died the hope of Welsh independence.

David held out for some little time in the north, but was hunted from stronghold to stronghold. Dolbadarn fell in 1283, and David soon afterwards became an English prisoner. After a trial, which was a mockery, he was put to death in a horrible manner. The war was now over, and Edward at last had the satisfaction of knowing that the little country that defied the might of England for so many years was now his.

CHAPTER XLIV.

Edward I. in Wales.

HARDLY had Llewelyn been killed and David changed from the leader of a strong army into a hunted fugitive, than Edward began the erection of a chain of strong castles for maintaining his hold upon the land he had won. In our own county, Carnarvon and Conway, with their walls, towers, and turrets, were commenced, and Criccieth was repaired. Outside the county other castles arose, frowning upon the subdued people, daring them to revolt.

David was captured in 1283, and the Welsh Crown jewels fell into Edward's hands. Many of the chieftains submitted, but others still refused to consider Edward as their ruler. They hid in safety among the mountains, but were outlawed, and any man might slay them without fear of punishment. Some, seeing that any further hope of Welsh Independence was vain, and not caring to become subject to Edward,

crossed over to France, where they made new homes for themselves.

In March, 1283, Edward removed his court to Conway and at once commenced building the structure whose graceful ruins still mark the spot. Later in the year he went to Rhuddlan, where a daughter, Elizabeth the Welshwoman, was born to him. For the whole of this year he went back and fore through the country settling it to the best of his ability. He seems only to have left it to attend the Parliament at Shrewsbury, when Prince David was condemned.

The year 1284 was spent by Edward, in Wales. Many things of importance and interest occurred in this year. In April, he moved his court to the unfinished castle at Carnarvon, where his son, Edward of Carnarvon, was born, on April 24th. You all know the story of how he persuaded the Welsh chieftains to accept the Royal infant as their prince, the King showing his baby son to the assembled people from the Queen's Gate of the Castle.

During the spring the King made a journey through Wales. In August, he held Round Table festivities at Nevin. These may have been held in order to bring him into favour with the people, but they seem very much as if they were intended to show how glad Edward was that he had subdued Wales. The King was at Carnarvon again in October, and, after journeys to various parts of Wales, he and his court returned to England.

The most important event of the year 1284, however, was the issue of what is known as the Statute of Rhuddlan. This was really Edward's command as to the future ruling of Wales. It made Wales a part of England, and divided part of the land into shires. Carnarvonshire was one of the new shires thus made. It was formed from the Cantrefs of Aber, Arvon, Dunodig, and Lleyn, which formed one of the four divisions of Gwynedd known as Arvon. To these four

cantrefs was added the commote of Creuddyn, which, to that time, was a part of the Cantref of Rhos.

The old districts had been governed by the chieftains under the Prince of Gwynedd, but now the King's officers were to rule. The chief of these were the sheriff of the county and the coroners and bailiffs of the commotes. Justice was dispensed by the King's officers. County courts were held at Carnarvon once a month by the sheriff, and, twice a year, the county was visited by a judge. The laws to be used were the old laws of Wales, but a little altered, as directed by the King in the Statute of Rhuddlan and other Statutes. So in this manner the old system was changed into the new.

As we have read, the castles were built to maintain the king's hold on the country. Though Edward felt that the Welsh were now quiet, he was not sure that they would not again rebel against his authority. We know this because in the new towns that grew around his castles no Welshman was allowed to become a freeman, or allowed to have any privileges at all. In fact, for years after Edward's death, it is likely that but few Welsh people were allowed to live in the towns at all.

The Welsh were bound together by family and tribal ties, and the head of a tribe was able to control the actions of his tribesmen to a large extent. Edward saw that in this system the danger of a revolt existed. So to break up the tribes and lessen their power he, and after him, his son, did all they could to encourage the growth of towns. Thus to the townsmen they granted many privileges, and in the end the tribes were broken up and a great deal of danger to the English rule passed away.

CHAPTER XLV.

Rebellions in Wales.

EDWARD, as we have seen, did all he could to settle the country and keep it from again breaking out into revolt. But the Welsh could not immediately settle down peaceably under the English rule. The English felt themselves conquerors, and did not consider the feelings of the subject people. They did many things that angered and hurt the Welsh very much. Justice was not always done, and sometimes lands were taken that really belonged to Welsh owners. A rebellion broke out in South Wales in 1287 owing to some dispute about lands, but in 1291 it was put down. The leader, Rhys ab Meredydd of Dynevor, was captured, and put to death as a traitor.

A more serious rebellion broke out in 1294, which spread over the whole of Wales. Three separate revolts were in progress at the same time, and all were caused by oppression. The revolts in the south and middle Wales were fairly easily quelled, but Edward had to come himself before the north was quieted.

The leader in the north was Madoc, who, some say, was the son of Llewelyn, and others, the son of Meredydd, a descendant of the Princes of Powys. The king had ordered a tax to be collected to pay the expenses of a war in Gascony. Sir Roger de Pulesdon was sent to collect this tax in North Wales. The people opposed the collection of the tax, and under Madoc rose and slew several of the tax-gatherers. They captured Sir Roger de Pulesdon and hanged and beheaded him.

"There was a fair at Carnarvon. Suddenly Madoc and his followers burst into the town. Their two chief objects of hatred were the new castle and the residence of Sir Roger de Pulesdon, sheriff of Anglesey, and collector of the new tax. The castle was stormed, and the town left a smouldering ruin."

The army that Edward had intended for Gascony was at once marched into North Wales under the command of the king's best leaders. It was badly defeated at Denbigh, but Edward himself brought fresh soldiers to the rescue. As soon as he appeared, Madoc withdrew his army across the Conwy and retreated to the mountains.

Edward hurried after him and, being in advance of his main body, crossed the Conwy after much fighting, and gained the shelter of Conway Castle. Many Englishmen lost their lives in crossing the river, and a quantity of the provisions was lost. Before the rest of the army could cross the Conwy, the river suddenly rose in flood and cut off the king from his forces.

The castle did not contain much food. The Welsh saw their chance and besieged the fortress. The king and his party were in great danger of being forced to surrender through hunger, and it is said that Edward could only get "salt meat, stale bread, and water sweetened with honey" for his Royal meals. The floods went down before the Welsh could capture the castle, and the siege was raised by the passage of the English army across the river.

The Earl of Warwick, who had done great deeds in Snowdonia during the last war, once more led an army into the heart of the Welsh mountains. He defeated several bands of Madoc's men, while the king, from Conway, subdued the lowlands and Môn. Christmas was spent by Edward at Conway, and early in 1295 he started on his return to England, as the country seemed settled.

Madoc now appeared again and defeated the English on several occasions. A hard fought battle took place at Cefn Digoll. Madoc lost the day, was captured, and the rebellion was at an end. Madoc was taken to the Tower of London, and after a trial was put to a traitor's death.

Two rebellions took place during Edward II.'s reign. The first was in South Wales, when Llewelyn Bren revolted in 1315 against the oppression of the Lord of Glamorgan. The rebellion was put down, and Llewelyn was pardoned by the king. He was illegally put to death by Despenser some time afterwards.

Oppression also caused the second rebellion. It broke out in Môn and Carnarvon, in 1322, and the leader was Gruffydd Llwyd. The Welsh met with some successes at first, but the power of England was too strong for them. They were scattered, and Gruffydd was captured and thrown into prison in Rhuddlan Castle, where he remained until his death.

CHAPTER XLVI.

After the Conquest.

THE formation of the county of Carnarvonshire, had it not been for the oppression caused by the officials which resulted in the rebellions read of in the last chapter, would have brought about the settlement of the district and an increase in the prosperity of its inhabitants. The English, however, learnt the lesson taught by the rebellions, and treated the Welsh more rationally than before. The towns around the castles grew, and, although the Welsh were not allowed to reside within their bounds, their existence made for in-

creased trade facilities, and the readier settlement of the county.

Edward II., Edward of Carnarvon, proclaimed himself a Welshman, and did all in his power—somewhat fitfully perhaps—to mitigate the hardships of those whom he was pleased to call his countrymen. The unfortunate King, however, could not do as much as could be desired, his own struggle with his barons leaving him but little opportunity for other affairs. Still, he did interfere between the rapacious English officials and the Welsh freemen, and always in the interests of the latter. He also was the only English King from the Conquest to the reign of Henry VII. who summoned members from Wales to the English Parliament.

The wars on the Continent during the reign of Edward III. afforded employment to the warlike sons of the county. Many joined the forces raised by the King, the Black Prince, and the Marcher Lords, tempted thereto by love of adventure and by the high wages obtained as soldiers. In this manner many turbulent spirits were removed from the land and the country was enabled to accommodate itself fairly peacefully to the new conditions. The terrible Black Death also made great ravages in the country, leaving in its trail new relations between the peasant and his lord. "This terrible visitor awakened the lord to the fact that his power was in danger; it awakened the serf to the fact that he was free."

Though there are indications that the country was prosperous at the beginning of the fifteenth century, there was a great deal of unrest, social and political. The change in the social relationships after the Black Death, the change from the old tribal system into that of individual ownership of land, the troubled condition of England, all found their echo in an unsettled Wales. When the troubles of Owen Glyndwr culminated in his rebellion, the country was ripe

for rebellion, and the people only wanted a leader to make them arm themselves for war.

The development and course of the struggle you will read in other books. "It was a desperate one. It lasted for many years; and on the part of the Welsh was carried on with a persistence and a strategic skill which taxed the whole power of England, and for some time appeared likely to baffle it. In the end, however, it failed, and Owen, though offered pardon, died an outcast in Herefordshire."

We must, however, notice the rebellion as far as it concerns Carnarvonshire. The destruction of "Lord Grey's Ruthin was the signal" for the outbreak, and soon Owen had command of a formidable array. So serious was the revolt deemed that Henry IV. appeared in person against the Welsh, and the autumn of 1400 saw him in Snowdon. He perpetrated some severities, including the destruction of Llanfaes Abbey, in Anglesey, and, as the revolt appeared to have been quelled, he retired to England.

Early in 1401, however, the Welsh were again in arms, and Conway Castle fell by assault and surprise into the hands of Owen's nephews. Hotspur and Prince Henry recaptured the castle, and Grey advanced as far as Carnarvon to receive the submission of the men of Merionethshire and Carnarvonshire. In 1402 Carnarvon was besieged by the insurgents, but was bravely defended for King Henry by Evan ab Meredydd, to whom, with Meredydd ab Hwlkin Llwyd of Glynllifon, under the command of an English captain, the custody of the castle had been entrusted. The same year saw the destruction of Bangor Cathedral, and Carnarvon Castle was again besieged in 1404. Dolbadarn Castle was occasionally in the power of each party during the rebellion, and the possession of it was warmly contested as the master key of the mountains of Snowdon.

The failure of the revolt was followed by the enactment of many harsh and repressive laws in punishment of the Welsh for their rebellion. The lot of the people was hard, and would have been harder still had not the Wars of the Roses distracted the attention of both English and Welsh. "The west of Wales, from Pembroke to Anglesey, was strongly Lancastrian," but Carnarvonshire was, fortunately, too far removed from the scene of the warfare to have suffered much from the horrors of civil strife. The success of Henry Tudor was the dawn of a new era for Wales, and under the Tudor Sovereigns the old disabilities of the Welsh were mitigated, the harsh laws passed against them were repealed or amended, and the political advantages enjoyed by Englishmen were extended to them .

When the Civil War broke out, in the seventeenth century, Conway Castle was defended for the King by Archbishop John Williams, of York, while Carnarvon Castle was seized for the Parliament in 1644 by Captain Swanley, who took in it 400 prisoners and a considerable store of arms and ammunition. Archbishop Williams defended Conway Castle valiantly, but in May, 1645, Prince Rupert superseded him in the command of North Wales. The warlike prelate suffered injurious and offensive treatment at the hands of the Prince and his officers, and, in revenge, joined the Parliamentary leader, General Mytton, and assisted in the reduction of the fortress he had once defended so well. Conway Castle was captured in 1646, and in the same year General Mytton also captured Carnarvon Castle, which had been taken by a Royalist force under Lord Byron. For a time the county seemed entirely under the domination of the Parliamentarians, but the zealous Royalist, Sir John Owen of Clenneny, the opponent of Archbishop Williams at Conway, raised a force of Royalists and besieged General Mytton in Carnarvon Castle. Hearing that Colonels Carter and Twistleton were approaching with a

superior force to the relief of the castle, Sir John raised the siege and advanced to meet the oncoming army. They met near Llandegai, the Royalists were defeated, and Sir John was wounded and made a prisoner. He was condemned to death, but was afterwards pardoned. After the defeat of Sir John Owen's force the whole of North Wales submitted to the authority of the Parliament, and the country was at peace.

CHAPTER XLVII.

Some Famous Sons of Carnarvonshire.—I.

WE cannot finish this little book on Carnarvonshire in a better manner than by giving a short account of the life and work of some of the most eminent of the sons of our county. They were born in all classes of society, and their lives show us how much can be done, and how much honour can be won by anyone who only strives in the right manner to better himself.

Richard Davies, D.D., was the son of Dafydd ab Gronow, a curate of Aber Conwy. He was born in 1501, and was educated at Oxford. In 1550, he was made vicar of Burnham and rector of Maidsmoreton, in Bucks. He was a staunch Protestant, and when Queen Mary came to the throne he was deprived of his livings and was forced to flee to Geneva. On the death of Mary he returned to England, and was restored to his preferments. In 1560 Dr. Davies was consecrated Bishop of St. Asaph, and in 1561 was made Bishop of St. David's.

Bishop Davies was one of the most eminent scholars of his day. We should always honour his memory on account of his efforts to provide his countrymen with the Scriptures

in their own tongue. He invited a number of the cleverest men to join him in his great work. At their head was William Salesbury. Their purpose was to translate the Scriptures into Welsh, and so successful were they that, in 1567, the first translation of the New Testament into Welsh was published. The book was chiefly the work of William Salesbury, but some of the Epistles were translated by the bishop himself.

In the same year they also translated and published a Welsh Common Prayer Book. Several other works were published by the bishop and Salesbury, but an unfortunate disagreement severed this valuable connection. The bishop died in his palace at Abergwili, in Carmarthenshire, in 1581, and was buried at the Parish Church of Abergwili.

Piers Griffith was a distinguised naval officer of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. He was the son of Sir Rhys Griffith, of Penrhyn. When the Spanish Armada sailed to attack England, he bought a ship and fitted it out with all kinds of warlike stores. He sailed from Beaumaris on 20th April, 1588, and reached Plymouth on 4th of May. There he was welcomed by Sir Francis Drake, and, in the fight that followed, he shared in the honour of defeating the Armada. After this fight he joined Drake and Raleigh in fighting the Spaniards in the West Indies. For fighting after peace was declared, he was prosecuted in the reign of James I., and was forced to sell his estates to pay the fine. This valiant son of Carnarvonshire lies buried in Westminster Abbey.

Thomas Davies, a native of Caerhun, was another bishop son of the county. He was born in 1515, and was educated at Cambridge. He was appointed rector of Llanbedr y Cenin and vicar of Caerhun, and in 1539 became archdeacon of St. Asaph. He held these honours until 1554, when he was deprived for being married. He was, however, restored when Elizabeth came to the throne. In 1546 he was made Chan-

cellor of Bangor, and in 1561 Bishop of St. Asaph. Bishop Davies was noted for his piety and his charity. He died in 1573.

Bishop John Owen was born at Bodselin, in the parish of Aber, in 1580. He was educated at Cambridge, and became chaplain to Charles I. In 1629 he was consecrated Bishop of St. Asaph. He restored and otherwise made beautiful the cathedral, and set up a new organ. He suffered imprisonment during the Civil War, and was forced to pay a fine of £500 to retain some of his privileges. He died in 1651, and was buried in the cathedral.

John Williams, born at Aber Conwy, now known as Conway, in 1582, was one of the most famous men of his time. He was descended through his mother from the Wynne family. He was educated at Ruthin Grammar School and Cambridge, and speedily became renowned for his great learning. When twenty-seven years of age he became a clergyman. He held several livings and in 1611 was appointed chaplain to the Lord Chancellor. Many other honours were showered upon him, and he was made the king's chaplain. In 1619 he preached before the king, who ordered his sermon to be printed. In 1621 he was made Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, and, later in the same year, Bishop of Lincoln. He attended King James at his death, and preached his funeral sermon.

For the first few years of Charles I.'s reign he was out of favour, but at last the king and the bishop came to understand each other. In 1641 he was made Archbishop of York. He retired, in 1642, from York to Conway, from an enemy who had threatened to attack him. The Archbishop fortified Conway castle and held it for the king. Sir John Owen, of Clenneny, surprised the Castle in 1645, and deprived the Archbishop of the command. Archbishop Williams, failing to obtain the return of the valuables which the country people

had stored for safety in the castle, joined the Parliamentary leader General Mytton. They forced the gates and entered the castle. By this means the Archbishop was enabled to return to each person the goods which had been given to him for safe keeping.

The death of King Charles affected the warlike old clergyman very much, and about a year after Charles's execution he died at Gloddaeth, and was buried in Llandegai Church. Archbishop Williams wrote several works, and restored and built several buildings in England. He was a man of great hospitality, charity, and generosity, and Carlyle described him as "hasty, hot, Welsh Williams."

Bishop William Morgan deserves to be remembered by us for the same reason as Bishop Richard Davies should be. He it was who gave to Welshmen the first complete Bible in Welsh. William Morgan was born at Gwibernant, Penmachno, and was educated at Cambridge. He became vicar of Welshpool, and afterwards of Llanrhaiadr yn Mochnant, in Denbighshire. Here he finished his great work, which was published in 1588. At first he only intended translating the five books of Moses, but was encouraged and pressed to finish the whole Bible. Several preferments followed the finish of his work, and in 1595 he was made Bishop of Llandaff, at the express command of Queen Elizabeth. In 1601 he was transferred to St. Asaph, where he died in 1604, and was buried in the cathedral.

CHAPTER XLVIII.

Some Famous Sons of Carnarvonshire.—II.

JOHN OWEN was born at Plasdu, in the Parish of Llanarmon, and was educated at Winchester and Oxford. Owen was a great Latin scholar, and wrote a number of books in that language. Roman Catholics were forbidden to read one of these books because it contained some references to that church which did not please the Pope and his friends. His works were translated into English, and some of them into French and Spanish. John Owen died in 1622, and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral. Another native of Plasdu, Llanarmon, was **John Evans**, who died in 1724. He was Bishop of Bangor, and afterwards of Meath, in Ireland.

Sir John Owen, of Clenneny, a strong supporter of King Charles I., was born in 1600. His father had been secretary to Walsingham and had gathered together a fairly large fortune. Sir John was a colonel in the army, and was also Vice-Admiral of North Wales. He distinguished himself greatly at the siege of Bristol, when it was taken by Prince Rupert. Sir John was wounded in the attack.

In 1645 he was appointed by Prince Rupert to take the place of Archbishop Williams as commander of Conway Castle. When the castle was taken by General Mytton, Sir John retired to Clenneny. In 1648 he rose in arms to make one last effort on behalf of Charles. His force defeated that of the sheriff of the county, whom he wounded and made prisoner. The sheriff afterwards died of his wounds.

Sir John now attempted the siege of Carnarvon Castle, but hearing that Colonels Twistleton and Carter were marching

against him, he raised the siege and went to meet them. The two forces met at Llandegai, and a furious battle took place. At first Sir John's forces seemed to carry all before them, but the Parliamentary reserve came up and turned the battle against the Royalists. Sir John was captured, and his men fled when their leader was lost. This victory was considered of great importance, and Sir John was taken to London to be tried as a traitor. He was condemned, but was afterwards pardoned. On his release he returned to his native county, where he lived until his death in 1666. He lies buried in Penmorfa Church.

Yet another bishop son of the county was **Griffith Williams**. He was born at Treveilian, near Llanrug, in 1587, and was educated at Oxford. He was appointed to a rectory in London, and afterwards to Llanllechid, in Carnarvonshire. He was appointed chaplain to Charles I., and after filling several offices became Dean of Bangor and Archdeacon of Anglesey in 1633. In 1641 he was made Bishop of Ossory, in Ireland, but still kept the deanery and archdeaconry. Bishop Williams was imprisoned by Parliament for writing a book in defence of the king. During the Commonwealth he lived in very poor circumstances, but refused to submit to Parliament. He was restored to his offices on the return of Charles II., and died in Ireland in 1672. During his lifetime he wrote many learned works.

Walter Griffiths was a naval officer who was born at Caerhun. In 1755 he was promoted lieutenant, and from that time took part in most of the seafights that took place until his death in 1766. He was in command of the Conqueror in an action against the French in Port Royal Bay in the West Indies.

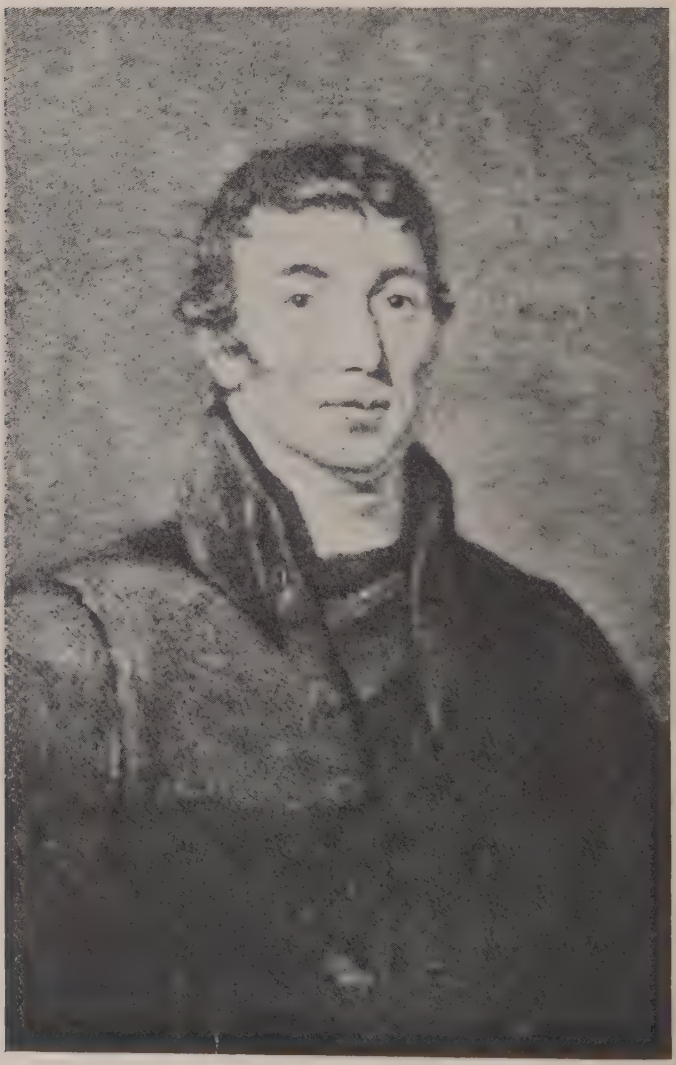
The admiral's account of the battle states: "The Conqueror drew ahead and to windward of the rest. About five, this ship got within distance of the French rear-admiral, who

began the cannonade. The steadiness and coolness with which, on every tack, Captain Griffith received the fire of the three ships belonging to the enemy, and returned his own, working his ship with as much exactness as if he had been turning into Spithead, and on every board gaining considerably, gave me great pleasure. It was with inexpressible concern that I heard that Captain Walter Griffith was killed by the last broadside. The service cannot lose a better man or a better officer."

John Evans was an adventurous young native of the county. Fired by the tale of Prince Madoc, he determined to seek for traces of the reputed Welsh Indians, or the descendants of Prince Madoc and his followers. He explored some 1,300 miles of the Missouri River in vain, and was forced to return to St. Louis. He again prepared a second expedition, but, before he could set forth, died of fever in 1797.

Mrs. Hester Lynch Piozzi was born at Bodfael, near Pwllheli, in 1739, and was the daughter of John Salesbury. Her first husband was a Mr. Thrale, a wealthy brewer. She became a great friend of the famous Dr. Johnson. This friendship continued until her second marriage to an Italian music-master named Gabriel Piozzi. She wrote several works, the best known being "*Anecdotes of Dr. Samuel Johnson, during the last twenty years of his life*," and "*Letters to and from Dr. Johnson*," A number of her verses also gained much repute. Mrs. Piozzi died at Clifton in 1821.

Of all the sons of the county **John Elias** will perhaps live longest in the memory of the people. He was born in humble circumstances at Abererch, in 1774. He joined the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists, and soon became known for his intense religious zeal. When about twenty years of age he was appointed a travelling preacher among the members of that



Rev. John Elias.

connexion. In 1811, he was ordained a regular minister, one of the first of the ministers ordained by the Methodists themselves.

John Elias was famous as a preacher, and wherever he was announced to preach people came in their thousands from all the district round to hear him. He died in 1841, and, and as proof of the respect and esteem in which he was held, it may be said that over 10,000 persons followed his body to the grave. He was buried at Llanfaes, near Beaumaris.

David Owen, an excellent poet, whose bardic name was *Dewi Wyn o Eifion*, was born at Gaerwen, in the Parish of Llanystumdwy, in 1784. His father was a farmer, who gave his son a good education. Dewi distinguished himself at an early age as a poet worthy to rank among the best in the Principality. He won several prizes for his compositions, but being disappointed and hurt at an adjudication given against him, sent no more compositions for competition. He, however, wrote for his own pleasure. His works are printed and comprise a volume known as "*Blodau Arfon.*" He died at Gaerwen, in 1841, and was buried at Llangybi.

Sir John Glynne was born at Glynllifon, in 1603. He was educated at Westminster and Oxford, becoming a lawyer after leaving the University. He was appointed one of the managers to conduct the trial of Strafford, and "his animosity against the bishops and zealous exertions against the Royalists were rewarded by his promotion to several offices of great value. Sir John fell into disfavour with the extreme Parliamentarians, but soon recovered his former influence. Cromwell, though Glynne steered clear of any share in King Charles I.'s trial, had a good opinion of him, and made him a member of his Council, and in 1657, of his House of Peers. After the Reformation he was received into the Royal favour, and was knighted by

King Charles II. Sir John Glynne was an able lawyer, and was employed in the examination of many of the Acts of Parliament passed during the Commonwealth. His "chief merit is that of establishing the first precedent of granting a new trial on account of excessive damages given by a jury." He died in 1666, and was buried under the altar of St. Mary's Church, Westminster.

Another lawyer son of the county was **Sir William Jones,** born at Castellmarch, in 1566. He was educated at Oxford and afterwards studied law. He established a reputation in his profession, and in 1622 was made one of the Justices of Common Pleas. In 1625 he was removed to the King's Bench. Sir William Jones died in 1640, and was buried in the chapel of Lincoln's Inn. This learned lawyer collected and wrote reports of most of the important cases that came for trial during his career as judge, and the results of his labours were published in London in 1675.

David Jones, of Trefriw, who flourished in the second half of the eighteenth century, was one of the earliest printers in the Principality. He had been presented with a fount of type by the celebrated antiquary Lewis Morris. Jones published a collection of Welsh poetry by various authors, called "*Blodeugerdd Cymru.*" He was himself a poet of some repute. He also formed a large collection of manuscripts, since dispersed, some of which were printed in the Myfyrian Archæology.

CHAPTER XLIX.

Some Famous Sons of Carnarvonshire.—III.

WILLIAM LLEYN was the bardic name of William Owen, born at Llangian, in 1540. He was educated for the Church, becoming in 1583 Vicar of Oswestry, an incumbency he held until his death in 1587. William Lleyn was, in poetry, a pupil of the famous poet Gwilym Hiraethog, who had the highest opinion of his poetic abilities. "He excelled all the bards of his time in sublimity of thought and poetic fire, and he was much admired for the sprightliness of his wit."

Evan Prichard, whose bardic name was Ieuan Lleyn, was born at Tymawr, in Lleyn. He was an excise officer, and was born in 1770. He was a poet of a superior order, and an antiquary of some repute. His compositions were published in the magazines of the time, and he also edited a magazine published at Carnarvon and known as "*Greal, neu Eurgrawn, sef Trysorfa Gwybodaeth.*" Ieuan Lleyn died in 1832.

David Thomas, better known by his bardic title of Dafydd Ddu o Eryri, was born at Penybont, in the parish of Llanbeblig, in 1760. His father, a weaver, instilled into him the love of learning and of poetry, and although he received some instruction, he was a self-educated man. When he had acquired sufficient learning he became a village schoolmaster, an occupation he continued through life. He wrote poems of great beauty in English and Welsh, contributing to the "*Gentleman's Magazine*" and other English and Welsh periodicals. He, on several occasions, won the prize medal for poetry offered annually by the Gwyneddigion Society, London. In 1810 "*Corph y Gaingc*" was published, a

volume of religious carols, written by him. He had a considerable knowledge of the history and literature of his country and was well versed in its antiquaries, genealogies and heraldry. Dafydd Ddu o Eryri was accidentally drowned in the River Cegin, in 1822, and was buried at Llanrug.

At Tu hwnt i'r Bwlch, in Eifionydd, **John Thomas** was born, in 1736. He became a clergyman and schoolmaster, and was headmaster of Beaumaris School. He died in 1769 at the early age of 33, and was buried in Llandegfan Church. He was considered an "able critic in his native language, and he was a most skilful genealogist; he wrote the "*History of the Fifteen Tribes of North Wales*," and many other works, which were all left in manuscript."

John William Thomas, who wrote under the name of Arfonwyson, was born in the parish of Llandegai, near Bangor, in 1805. His education was acquired under difficulties, and during the course of his life he became a schoolmaster, an itinerant bookseller, and a publisher. Among his publications were: "*Geiriadur Cymreig a Seisoneg*," a periodical called "*Tywysog Cymru*," and a manual for Sunday School teachers entitled "*Trysorfa yr Athrawon.*" After a somewhat thorny career he was appointed, probably because he was an excellent mathematician, Superintendent of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, where he remained until his death, in 1840. When at the Observatory he annually edited a Welsh almanac, and he also frequently contributed to the magazines articles that were much admired for the clearness and crispness of their style.

Richard Thomas was born at Gest, near Penmorfa, and was educated for the Church. He was a learned antiquary and genealogist, and compiled several large volumes of pedigrees, one of which is included in the Peniarth collection of manuscripts now in the National Library at Aberystwyth. He died in 1780.

Griffith Williams, whose bardic name was Guttyn Peris, is another instance of a man who surmounted all difficulties in the pursuit of knowledge. He was born in the parish of Llanbeblig, in 1769, and by dint of perseverance "he acquired a profound knowledge of his native language, and arrived in a high position in the second class of modern Welsh poets." During his lifetime he wrote poems and essays, which he contributed to various periodicals. He won several prizes in poetic contests, the chief being a silver cup for the prize poem at an eisteddfod held at St. Asaph in 1810. "*Ffrwyth yr Awen*," a volume of his poems, was published in 1816, and he left in manuscript material for several other volumes. He died in 1838, and was buried at Llandegai.

Robert ab Gwilym Ddu, otherwise Robert Williams, was born at Bettws Fawr, in 1767. He was a farmer, and was endowed with the gift of poetry. "As a strictly moral poet, Robert Williams had few equals in the Principality, and his hymns, of which he has written a considerable number, rank among the best in the language. His poetical works, which appeared in 1841, under the title of "*Gardd Eifion*," evince a talent of no common cast. The unaffected, but finished, style in which they are written, and the good taste and thorough Christian tone which pervades them, have rendered his compositions deservedly popular." He died at Monachdy in 1850, and was buried at Abererch.

Thomas Williams, who died some time after 1620, a learned lexicographer and physician, was born in a place called Ardde'r Myneich, at the foot of Snowdon. He practised the medical profession, but is chiefly remembered on account of his writings. He compiled an exhaustive book of pedigrees, which he called "*The Primitive Pedigrees of all Wales*," and also wrote a medical work, and a book on astronomy. But his chief literary effort, "which places him

Hugh Hughes (Tegai).

among the first rank of Welsh scholars," was a Latin and Welsh dictionary, a work of great research and erudition. His works were never published, and still exist in manuscript in some of the collections of our country.

There are three **Hugh Hughes**, natives of the county, who claim recognition in these pages. The first, born in 1778, at Llannor, near Pwllheli, became a Wesleyan minister, who followed his vocation mainly in South Wales. So successful was he in his holy calling that in 1834 he was chosen one of the "legal hundred," an honour never before conferred upon a Welsh minister. His literary productions include translations into Welsh of some portions of Wesley's "*Notes on the New Testament*," and several pamphlets. He was for some time editor of the "*Eurgrawn Wesleyaidd*," the Welsh organ of the Wesleyans. He died in 1855.

The second **Hugh Hughes**, the artist, was born near Llandudno, in 1793. He is the foremost of Welsh wood engravers; most of his engraving being masterly productions. The best of his works appear in his "*Beauties of Cambria*," and he also published a volume of Welsh antiquities and other works. He died in 1863.

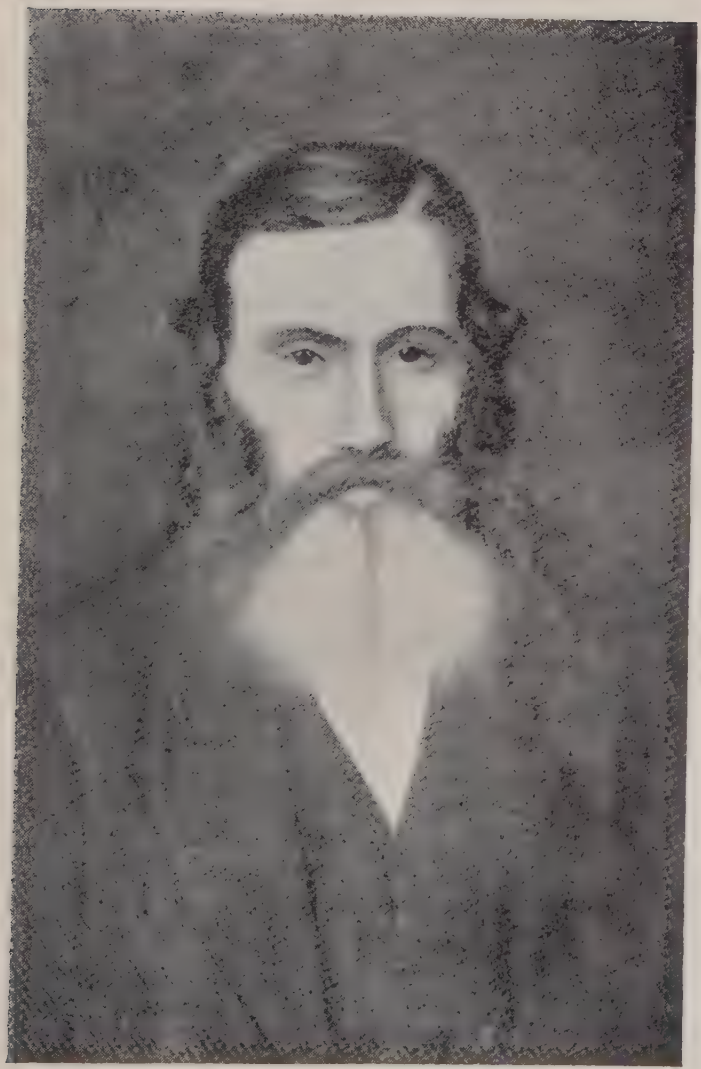
Hugh Hughes, "Tegai," was born in the Parish of Llandegai in 1805. He became a minister of the Congregational Church, and was well known as a powerful preacher. He was a voluminous writer, contributing largely to the magazines, and for many years he also edited a monthly known as "*Yr Arweinydd*." His chief works are one on "*Logic*," an Introduction to Welsh Grammar, and his "*Grammadeg Athronyddol*." He died in 1864.

John Gibson, the famous sculptor, is the most prominent representative of the county in the realms of art. He was

born at Gyffin, near Conway, in 1790, and early in life showed he had artistic leanings. He sketched from nature, and not till the family had settled at Liverpool had he any opportunity for studying any form of art. When fourteen years old he was apprenticed to a firm of cabinet-makers, but this industry not affording scope for his artistic talents, he abandoned for

John Gibson.

wood-carving. Not again satisfied, he, after much difficulty became apprenticed to a sculptor. He worked for several years in Liverpool, studying, modelling, and carving, and at last removed to London, carrying with him good letters of introduction. Here he soon won for himself a place of



E. Thomas (Eben Fardd).

honour, and executed several commissions, but as he desired to study at Rome he was not content. Kind Liverpool friends assisted him, and he went to Rome to study under the famous sculptor Canova. At Rome he modelled and carved busts, statues, and groups of figures, and soon won for himself an undying fame.

Among his sitters was the late Queen Victoria, and he presented a copy of her bust to the Corporation of Liverpool, which was placed in St. George's Hall. The statue of her late Majesty was exhibited at the Royal Academy, and as the sculptor had introduced colour on the figure, it was greatly criticised. He also exhibited other tinted figures, notably three at the International Exhibition at South Kensington, in 1862, among which was the famous "*Tinted Venus*," bringing over his head a chorus of condemnation for daring to colour a piece of statuary. His works are too numerous to mention, but they were all worthy of one of the world's greatest sculptors. John Gibson died in 1866, and was buried in the English Cemetery at Rome. As he had been decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honour, a company of French soldiers with muffled drums escorted his body to the grave, and fired a farewell salute in his honour.

Eben Fardd was born in 1802, and died in 1863. He spent most of his life at Clynnog, where he kept a school. He was a bard of high order, and won the Powys Chair for his "*Ode on the Destruction of Jerusalem*," when but 23 years old. Personally, he was of a religious, moral, humble, and pure disposition, and his published prose and poetry breathe a high and noble atmosphere. He was recognised by his countrymen as a great teacher and great thinker, and the whole of Wales came under his influence through the medium of the press and of literary societies, where he was in great request. In 1858 he won the chair at the Llangollen Eistedd-

Ieuan Glan Geirionydd.

fod on the subject "*Bosworth Field*," and his critics are divided in opinion as to whether his first chair ode or his last was his best. The chief characteristics of his odes were his descriptive power, and his masterly treatment of his subject.

The **Rev. Evan Evans**, better known as **Ieuan Glan Geirionydd**, was born at Trefriw, in 1795. He was educated for the Church, but failed to find patronage in Wales. He eventually became curate of Rhyl, where he died in 1855. Though neglected by the Welsh bishops, he won for himself a position of high honour among his countrymen. In 1844 he published the first volume of his commentaries entitled the "*Pictorial Bible*," a second volume in 1847, and the third in 1850. This work alone places him among the great scholars of his country. He also published the "*Gwladgarwr*," one of the choicest monthly publications ever published in Wales. His poetic genius was of a high order, and he acquired the rare distinction of having won three bardic chairs. "Ieuan will live as a genius in his poems, but he is immortal in his hymns. He will ever be known where Welsh is spoken and understood. His '*Morfa Rhuddlan*' has been sung and recited the world over, and the humble Christian has no better words on his dying lips as he is ushered to the presence of his God than the soul-stirring words of '*Ar lan Iorddonen ddofn*,'" the gem of the hymns composed by him.

APPENDIX.

Geographical Summary.

Name :—

Carnarvon—Caer Seiont yn Arfon, i.e., The Fortress in Arfon.
Arfon—Bordering on Mon, or Mona.

Position and Extent :—

A maritime county. The most westerly of the three counties of the North Wales Coast.
Greatest length, from Creuddyn to Braich y Pwll, 55 miles.
Breadth, varies from 5 to 20 miles.
Circumference, 150 miles.
Area, 361,156 statute acres, or nearly 565 square miles.

Boundaries :—

North : Irish Sea and Menai Straits.
North-west : Carnarvon Bay.
South : Cardigan Bay and Merionethshire.
East : Denbighshire.

Openings :—

Mouth of the Conwy, Forhyd Bay, Nevin Bay, Porth Dinlleyn Bay, Porth Sgadan Bay, Penllech Bay, Aberdaron Bay, Porth Cadlan, Porth Nigel, Porth Ceiriad, Tremadoc Bay, Mouth of the Glaslyn.

Capes :—

Little Orme's Head, Great Orme's Head, Penmaenbach, Penmaenmawr, Trwynytal Point, Trwyn y Gorlech, Carreg y Llam, Porth Dinlleyn Point, Braich y Pwll, Pen y Kil, Y Trwyn, Talfrach Point, Pencilan Head, Wylfa Head, Llanbedrog Point, Carreg yr Imbill, Penychain Point.

Islands :—

Bardsey Island, St. Tudwal's Island, Ynys Gwylan.

Surface :—

Surface of county mountainous, but cut up into deep and narrow valleys. A narrow coastal plain, as mountains come near coast. Lleyn is an undulating tableland with comparatively few trees. The slope of the county is generally north and south, from the mountains that form its "back-bone."

Mountains :—

Snowdonian Mountains divide naturally into three groups :—

a. 1st group is composed of Y Wyddfa and its ridges. The chief peaks are : Y Wyddfa (3,570), Crib y Distyll (3,500), Crib Goch (2,900), Yr Aran (2,470), Y Lliwedd (2,900), Moel Eilio (2,400), and Moel Cynghorion (2,200). This group is continued on the opposite bank of the River Gwyrfai. The chief peaks are : Moel Hebog (2,600), Mynyddmawr (2,300), Llwyd Mawr (1,996), and Y Garnedd Goch (2,300). Mountains of Lleyn and Eifionydd are also continuation of the Snowdon group, and run in the direction of the greatest length of the peninsula for a distance of about 18 miles. They commence near Clynnog Fawr and end in the cliffs near Braich y Pwll. The peaks are lower than those of the first chain. The chief are : Yr Eifl (1,900), Y Gern Ddu (1,700), Y Gern Goch (1,600), Bwlch Mawr (1,670), Carn Boduan (910), Carn Fadryn (1,200), Rhos Hirwaun (900), and Mynydd Annelog (830).

b. 2nd group lies between the valleys of the Ogwen and the Seiont. Chief peaks are : Glyder Fawr (3,279), Glyder Fach (3,262), Y Tryfan (3,000), Elidyr Fawr (3,050), Elidyr Fach (2,564), and Y Garn (3,100).

c. 3rd group lies between Ogwen and Conwy. The principal peaks are : Carnedd Dafydd (3,430), Carnedd Llewelyn (3,484), and Moel Fras (3,100). It is continued beyond the River Llugwy to borders of county. Chief peaks are : Moel Siabod (2,850), Y Cynicht (2,265), and Moelwyn (2,530).

Rivers :—

The rivers are short, and, with the exception of the Conwy, are not navigable for any distance above their mouths. The chief are : Conwy, Ogwen, Seiont, Gwyrfai, Llyfni, and the Glaslyn or Afon Las. A number of small streams water Lleyn and Eifionydd. The largest are : Afon Fawr, Afon Soch, Afon Erch, Afon Wen, and the Dwyfawr and Dwyfach.

Conwy.—Rises in Llyn Conwy, south of Penmachno. Forms the eastern boundary of the county for most of its length. Chief tributaries are : Eidda, Machno, Lledr, Llugwy, Crafnant, Afon Ddu, Porthlwyd and Dulyn. River is navigable as far as Trefriw. Chief places in its basin are : Conway, Talycafn, Trefriw, Llanrwst, Bettws y Coed, Capel Curig (on the Llugwy), Dolwyddelan (on the Lledr), Penmachno (on the (Machno), and Yspytty Ivan.

Ogwen.—Runs from Carnedd Dafydd through Llyn Ogwen, and flows through Nant Ffrancon to reach the sea east of Bangor. It has no tributaries of any importance. Chief places in its basin are : Llandegai and Bethesda.

Seiont.—Rises south of Y Glyder Fawr. Flows through Pass of Llanberis and forms on its course the lakes of Padarn and Peris. Afon Hwch from Llyn Dwythwch, and Afon Galedffrwd are the chief tributaries. Chief places in its basin are: Carnarvon, Old and New Llanberis, and Cwm y Glo.

Gwyrfai.—Flows from Llyn y Gader, south-west of Snowdon. Forms on its course Llyn Cwellyn, and has in its basin Bettws Garmon, Waenfawr, and Bontnewydd.

Llyfni.—Rises on the southern slopes of Mynydd Mawr. Forms on its way Llyn Dywarchen and the Nantlle Lakes. Chief places in its basin are: Nantlle, Penygroes, and Llanllyfni.

Glaslyn or **Afon Las.**—Flows through Cwm Dyli from Glaslyn and Llyn Llydaw, south-east of Snowdon, and enters Llyn Gwynant as Nant Gwynant. After leaving Llyn Gwynant it forms Llyn y Ddinas. Chief tributary is the Colwyn. Below Beddgelert flows through famous Pass of Aberglaslyn. Most important places in its basin are: Beddgelert, Tremadoc, and Portmadoc.

Lakes:—

Numerous lakes and mountain tarns. Most important are: Conwy, Llyniau Mymbyr, Ffynnon Llugwy, Geirionydd, Crafnant, Cowlyd, Eigiau, and Dulyn, in the Conway Basin; Ogwen, Idwal and Bochlwyd, in the Ogwen Basin; Dwythwch, Peris and Padarn in the Seiont Basin; Gader and Cwellyn in the Gwyrfai Basin; Dywarchen and Llyniau Nantlle in the Llyfni Basin; and Glaslyn, Llydaw, Gwynant and Llyn y Ddinas in the Glaslyn Basin.

Climate:—

Climate is mild and equable. Rainfall less in Lleyn and round coast than in mountainous district. Mountainous districts are, of course, colder than the lower lying lands. Prevailing winds come from the west and south-west.

Soil and Agriculture:—

Soil is very variable in quality. Fertile in Lleyn and in the valleys. Lower hills good grazing land. Mountains are barren. Dairy farming chief occupation of the farmers. Oats is the chief corn grown.

Rocks and Minerals:—

Rocks are the oldest stratified. Large quantities of igneous or fire-formed rocks found. Slate is chief rock quarried, though large quantities of igneous rocks, limestone, clay, and some sandstone are dug up. Minerals found are, iron, lead, zinc, copper and manganese ores. Minerals not extensively worked.

Industries :—

Farming and quarrying the chief industries. Chief slate centres are : Bethesda, Llanberis and Nantlle. Slate articles made at several places, especially Carnarvon and Bangor. Fishing (Sea and River) carried on. Carnarvon, Conway (mussels), and Pwllheli chief fishing centres. Minor industries are : Founding, brewing, tanning, and ship-building and repairing.

Divisions :—

Arfon was one of the four divisions that formed the province of Gwynedd. It was divided into four cantrefs, or hundreds, and ten commots. The cantrefs were : Aber, Arfon, Dunodig and Lleyn.

Made county by Edward I. in 1284.

Administration :—

Civil affairs administered by Mayor and Corporation in four Municipal Boroughs, Carnarvon, Bangor, Conway, and Pwllheli, and by the County Council in the other areas. Local affairs attended to by Urban District, Rural District and Parish Councils. Poor are relieved by the Poor Law Unions. Carnarvon is in the North Wales and Chester Circuit, and the Assizes are held at Carnarvon.

Parliamentary Representation :—

One Group of Parliamentary Boroughs which send one member to Parliament. The Boroughs are : Carnarvon, Bangor, Pwllheli, Nevin, Criccieth, Conway.

Two Parliamentary Districts, each returning one member : 1, North (Arfon); 2, South (Eifion).

Total members returned : Three.

Population :—

Population of ancient county in 1891 = 118,204

" " " " " 1901 = 126,835.

Increase = 8,631.

Population of administrative county in 1901 = 125,669.

Language :—

Nearly half the inhabitants speak Welsh only. About 40 per cent. speak both English and Welsh. About 10 per cent. speak English only.

Railways :—

London & North Western Main Line from Chester to Holyhead passes through Conway, Penmaenmawr, Aber, Bangor and Menai Bridge.

Branches : 1. Llandudno Junction to Llandudno and through the Conway Valley to Blaenau Ffestiniog.

2. Bangor to Bethesda.

3. Menai Bridge to Carnarvon, Penygroes and Afonwen. Sub-branches from Carnarvon to Llanberis, and Penygroes to Nantlle.

Cambrian Railway from Portmadoc to Pwllheli.

North Wales Narrow Gauge from Dinas to Snowdon, with a branch from Tryfan Junction to Bryngwyn.

" Toy Railway " from Portmadoc to Blaenau Ffestiniog.

Snowdon Mountain Railway from Llanberis to summit of Y Wyddfa.

Mineral Lines from Penrhyn Quarries to Port Penrhyn, and from Dinorwic Quarries to Port Dinorwic.

Towns :—

Carnarvon.—County town, with population of 9,670. Municipal Borough. Active port. Exports slate and copper ore, and imports timber. Industries : Founding, fishing, tanning, brewing, and ship-building and repairing. Has interesting Castle and town walls built by Edward I., and is a favourite tourist centre.

Bangor.—Municipal Borough and Cathedral City. Has population of 12,000 Exports slate. Port Penrhyn and Penrhyn Castle to east. University College of North Wales and other colleges.

Llandudno.—Most popular of Welsh watering-places. Has a population of over 10,000. Beautifully situated between the Great Orme and the Little Orme.

Bethesda.—Population 5,300. Slate quarrying centre. Here are the great Penrhyn Quarries.

Pwllheli.—Has population of 3,675. Stands near mouth of Erch. Has coasting trade and ship-building. Fishing is also carried on. Rising watering-place. Municipal Borough.

Penmaenmawr (3,503) and **Llanfairfechan** (2,969) are rising watering-places on the north coast,

Llanberis.—Has population of 3,015. Tourist centre, and is starting place for ascent of Snowdon. Dinorwic Slate Quarries are here. Dolbadarn Castle ruins near by.

Conway is a Municipal Borough at mouth of Conway. Has a population of about 5,000. Edwardian castle and town walls. Tourist centre. Has Art Gallery in an old Tudor House called Plas Mawr.

Beddgelert (1,230) and **Bettws y Coed** (1,070), are popular tourists' centres.

Portmadoc (2,000) has good harbour, and exports Ffestiniog slate. Ship-building. Tremadoc is one mile inland.

Criccieth has population of 1,406. Is a small port and watering-place. Has ruins of Edwardian castle.

Port Dinorwic, on Menai Straits exports Llanberis and other slates in great quantities.

Nevin.—A rising watering-place. Edward I. held a tournament here.